BUSINESS/ B1

BSP: Peso to stay strong; exporters well advised to tap hedging tools vs forex risks

NEWS / A2

GMA certifies urgent bill to postpone barangay polls to May '09

WORLD / A20

Burma ignores int'l outrage; more arrested; military officer defects to Thailand

ENTERTAINMENT / D1

Dollywood: Testy Ms. Kapamilya out to irk Ms. Kapuso

Razon breaks silence, says too busy for ZTE deal

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

ENRIQUE RAZON, ONE OF THE COUNtry's most powerful businessmen, insists he is just too busy running his global port empire to dip his fingers into the controversial broadband deal with China.

The chair of the International Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI) yesterday

RAZON BREAKS/ A15

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Thursday, October 4, 2007 ★★★ 6 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 298 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Fil-Ams, Palace protest slur on RP docs in 'Desperate'

By Nimfa U. Rueda
Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—THE PHILIPPINE CONsulate General here on Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila) sent a letter to ABC Television Network protesting remarks maligning Filipino health professionals on its prime-time show, "Desperate Housewives," a comic soap opera that has attracted millions of viewers worldwide.

In the show's latest episode, aired in the United States on Sept. 30, character Susan Mayer, played by actress Teri Hatcher, told her doctor: "OK, before we go any further, can I check those diplomas? Because I would just like to make sure they are not from some med school in the Philippines."

The remarks "served to create racial stereotypes, thereby tainting unnecessarily the excellent record of Filipino

FIL-AMS/ A5

Pinoy Times
SPECIAL EDITION
Binobola
...ang taumbayan!

REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS PAST

Erap cries foul over 'Pinoy Times' ad

By Jocelyn R. Uy

JOSEPH ESTRADA CRIED FOUL OVER the advertisement that appeared in yesterday's issue of the INQUIRER showing a lineup of old issues of a Filipino-language tabloid that had run reports on his impeachment trial and eventually his downfall in 2001.

"There is a new attempt to depict me as a criminal in the eyes of the Filipino public," the ousted President, who was convicted last month by the Sandiganbayan Special Division on two counts of plunder and sentenced up to 40 years in prison, said in a statement yesterday.

"Whoever is behind this ad is obviously not content with the Sandiganbayan's decision and wants to destroy me by all foul means even as I seek to overturn the court's decision with a motion for reconsideration," he said.

Estrada was referring to the ad placed by the Foundation for Worldwide People Power.

It showed the front pages of 17 issues of the defunct Pinoy Times Special Edition covering the controversies

ERAP CRIES/ A15

NBN deal probe in limbo

Tycoon said to be meddling in investigation

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.,
Dona Pazzibugan
and Christine O. Avendaño

THE SENATE PROBE OF THE $329-million contract for the National Broadband Network (NBN) project is in limbo amid allegations that Malacañang and a "powerful businessman" have allegedly "co-opted" the blue ribbon committee chaired by Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano.

Since the Senate wrapped up the fourth hearing on the deal on Thursday, Cayetano has not set a definite date for the next hearing.

The Senate is set to go on a monthlong recess this month and many senators are going on vacation.

In a privilege speech yesterday, Sen. Jamby Madrigal said: "We find it odd and disturbing that no hearings are scheduled this week when we have been previously advised that the hearings will be conducted before the Sen-

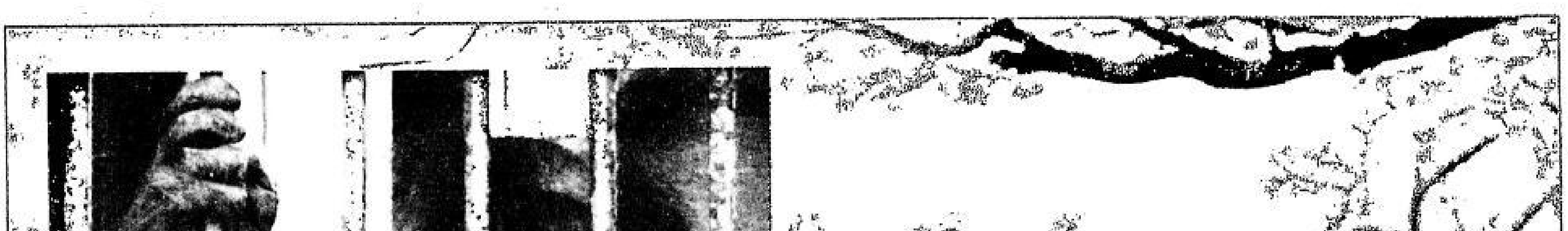
NBN DEAL/ A15

$460-M Cyber Education deal not scrapped

By Michael Lim Ubac
and Jerry E. Esplanada

THE AGREEMENTS FOR THE CYBER Education Project and all other Chinese-funded projects earlier suspended by Malacañang have not been scrapped by President Macapagal-Arroyo, Trade Secretary Peter Favila said in Shanghai yesterday.

$460-M CYBER/ A15



FRIENDS OF ST. FRANCIS
Even as the pro-zoo and animal rights activists' debate intensifies, both proponents and opponents agree on one thing: The feast of the patron of birds and the environment, St. Francis of Assisi, richly deserves to be celebrated today. The state of the Manila Zoo (above) is shown on the long face of the orangutan and a haggard elephant. The anti-zoo groups score.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Animal Day debate: Should Manila Zoo be shut down?

By Allison W. Lopez
and Tina G. Santos

AS THE WORLD OBSERVES ANIMAL Day today, a debate rages on whether the Manila Zoo should be shut down.

With more than 700 creatures crammed inside the facility, the country's oldest and one of the region's first, rights groups are calling for its closure and protesting the alleged mistreatment of the creatures penned inside.

The People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta) said the zoo animals should be returned to the wild—their natural habitat—because most of them exhibited "zoochosis," a condition where animals are driven "mad" by captivity.

As concern for the residents of the Manila Zoo mounts, animal lovers elsewhere celebrate this day with fund-raising and information campaigns and other special events.

Oct. 4 was designated World Animal Day because it is the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, a nature lover and patron saint of animals and the environment.

ANIMAL/ A7

AFTER LAUGHING, WHAT NEXT?

NBN jokes: Broadband, husband, etc.

By Tarra Quismundo
and Margaux Ortiz

SPECIAL REPORT

Project Editor
Fernando del Mundo

THE BROADBAND CONTROVERSY—spiked with allegations of overpricing and bribery—has sparked a surge of jokes never before seen since the "Hello Garci" ring tones and SMS wisecracks titillated Filipinos two years ago.

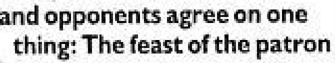
The bon mot is not simply confined to cyberspace.

Some have replaced the casual pleasantries when friends meet, reflecting a uniquely Filipino way of laughing away problems or resorting to comic relief out of a feeling of either utter helplessness or revulsion.

"I feel that Filipinos are a happy people," says singer-turned-activist Leah Navarro.

Navarro remembers receiving the ZTE alphabet joke (A-B-ZTE-FG) from one lawmaker just minutes after businessman Jose "Joey" de Venecia III told a Senate inquiry that First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo had asked him to "back off" from government's National Broadband Network (NBN)

NBN JOKES/ A6



House may only touch 23% of P1.2-T nat'l budget

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT's continuing payment of foreign debts has given the House of Representatives very little room to exercise its so-called "power of the purse" in the proposed P1.227-trillion national budget for 2008.

As the House began plenary deliberations on the budget yesterday, Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, chair of the powerful committee on appropriations, said the lawmakers had discretion over only P286 billion, or 23 percent of the total national expenditure program.

That's because P624 billion has automatically been allocated by law to debt service, he said.

"Are we viewing a carcass?" Lagman said in his sponsorship speech for the proposed General Appropriations Act (GAA). "Must we cross swords on less than a fourth of the annual budget?"

The proposed GAA is the

HOUSE/ A4

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HA? E, TATLONG LINGGO NA LANG, ELEKSYON NA!

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central and Southern Luzon and Western Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers of thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

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EZ2
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FOUR DIGIT
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(In exact order)

Mid-Day **SUERTRES** Evening
8 4 9 | 2 1 7

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Palace wants village polls reset

By Dona Pazzibugan and Christine O. Avendaño

GIVING IN TO THE CLAMOR OF HER ALLIES IN the House, President Macapagal-Arroyo has certified as "urgent" a bill postponing the Oct.29 barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections to August next year.

The Senate, however, ended its session last night without acting on the recommendation. "The Senate maintains its position that it is best to proceed with the election," said Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said he transmitted the President's certification to Senate President Manuel Villar Jr., and Speaker Jose de Venecia and urged the two chambers to consider the bill before they go on recess on Oct. 12.

Ermita told reporters that the Palace was supporting another bill which resets the barangay and SK elections to August 2008, to coincide with elections in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao.

"All I know is that there was strong representation coming from our allies in the Lower House...that's why the President gave way to that sentiment," Ermita said.

He said he had heard from congressmen that they wanted the postponement of the elections because it comes too close after the last election, which had been expensive for the government.

At any rate, the Commission on Elections said it was prepared to hold elections on Oct. 29.

"Our rule here is, if there is a law which tells us to postpone, we will postpone. If there is no law then we will implement and continue with the Barangay and SK elections on October 29," said Resureccion Borra, who just took over as acting Comelec chair following Benjamin Abalos resignation earlier this week.

Borra said Comelec is presently preparing for a command conference with the Philippine National Police (PNP) to ensure the holding of peaceful village elections.

The nationwide gun ban started last Sept. 29 and will run until Nov. 13, unless disrupted by a law that postpones the village elections.

The Senate committee on constitutional amendments, revision of codes and laws, headed by Sen. Richard Gordon failed to present its report recommending a postponement of the elections, at least until May next year.

But Gordon's absence from the session became an issue. He left Monday for Switzerland to attend the International Red Cross convention.

According to Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Sr., who is against the postponement, Senate rules require that Gordon personally defend his committee's report.

Davao twins separated

By Joselle Badilla
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—SEVEN-DAY-old conjoined twins were successfully separated by a team of doctors at the Davao Medical Center (DMC) on Tuesday morning after almost four hours of operation.

Myla and Myka Praile, born at the Sandig Hospital in Tacurong, Sultan Kudarat by caesarean section, were joined at the lower abdomen and shared a portion of their intestines. They also have an imperforate anus, or having no anal opening.

Dr. Michael Manalaysay, chair of the Department of Pediatrics, said the twins were admitted at the Davao Medical Center on Sept. 26.

"The next day we had a conference and decided that the twins be operated on at the soonest possible time because there were signs of them getting weak," Manalaysay told reporters.

VIGIL FOR TRUTH
University of the Philippines law student Paulyn Duman lights a candle in front of the residence of former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri in Quezon City during a vigil Tuesday night calling on him to tell the truth regarding the aborted national broadband contract with the Chinese firm ZTE.
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

EXECUTIVE SESSION LEAK

Senate to summon Inquirer reporter

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE SENATE ETHICS COMMITTEE IS SET to summon INQUIRER reporter Juliet Labog-Javellana in its investigation on how the proceedings during the Senate's Sept. 26 executive session with former National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) director general Romulo Neri were leaked to the media.

Sen. Pilar Julianna "Pia" Cayetano, chair of the ethics committee, however, stressed that she respected the rights of journalists under the law to protect the identity of their sources.

She said she wanted to find ways to amicably settle Sen. Joker Arroyo's complaint against the four unnamed sources cited by the INQUIRER in its Sept. 30 report about what transpired during the closed-door session with Neri.

Citing sources, the INQUIRER article written by Javellana claimed Neri was on the verge of divulging the details of his conversations with President Macapagal-Arroyo on the allegedly anomalous $326 million ZTE Corp. national broadband deal when Arroyo intervened and allowed Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya to join the session as Neri's legal counsel.

Arroyo branded the INQUIRER report as a "complete falsehood."

On Tuesday, he asked the Senate to investigate the breach in the strict confidentiality rule in closed-door executive sessions.

He also urged the INQUIRER to name its sources.

"I am duty bound to look into the matter, its implications and to probe if there's a violation of our rules on confidentiality when we are in executive session," Cayetano said.

She said the first witness she would call would be Javellana. But she indicated she was against compelling the INQUIRER to reveal its sources.

"We all know that by law and under the journalists' professional code of ethics, (the identity of sources) is to be protected. Definitely we will be guided by our own rules and conduct in a way that's fair to all. We give the assurance to our resource persons that their rights will be respected," she said.

Arroyo is determined to pursue his complaint even as he called for an end to the Senate inquiry into the NBN deal with ZTE since Malacañang has already cancelled the contract.

"I've lost interest in this because it's been overtaken by events. But my complaint will continue. There can be no honorable retreat in this," he vowed yesterday.

In a statement Tuesday night, the INQUIRER said it stood by its story. It also said it could not be compelled to reveal its sources, citing Republic Act 53.

"What I'm asking the INQUIRER is, can you waive the protection (for journalists against being compelled to name sources," Arroyo said yesterday.

Arroyo said there must be some form of sanction against those found to have violated the secrecy rule in executive sessions.

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP), however, said that Arroyo's move smacks of intimidation and suppression of freedom of the press.

In a statement yesterday, NUJP chair Joe Torres said the protection of sources in journalism is "a cornerstone of press freedom."

Torres said the NUJP supports the INQUIRER in its decision not to reveal the identities of its sources. *With a report from Alcuin Papa*

JDV: I'm watching my back

By Norman Bordadora

HOUSE SPEAKER JOSE DE VENEcia yesterday said he continues to enjoy the support of the majority coalition in the wake of a pending ethics complaint and reports that some members of the majority are planning his ouster less than two weeks before the House goes on recess.

"I have been watching my back since I became Speaker in 1992.... There have been attempts every year. Still, I get reelected," De Venecia said.

"We have a very strong alliance with all the major political parties. I have a great confidence in the solidarity of our alliance based on mutual respect and the need to enact reform legislation in this 14th Congress," he said.

Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte, president of the Kampi party, has denied that he and his allies in the so-called reform bloc in the majority coalition are cooking up something that would end in De Venecia being unseated.

In a privilege speech last week, Villafuerte denied that he was planning De Venecia's ouster after the Speaker's son, businessman Joey de Venecia, accused the husband of President Macapagal-Arroyo, Jose Miguel Arroyo, of telling him to back off from the national broadband network (NBN) project in favor of the Chinese-based ZTE Corp.

DE VENECIA

And if he were to initiate an ouster move against De Venecia, it would be as a result of the ethics case that lawyer Ruel Pulido filed against the Speaker, Villafuerte said.

Yesterday, a Villafuerte ally, Quezon Rep. Lorenzo Tañada III, said there were no discussions of a supposed plan to oust De Venecia at a dinner that the reform bloc held on Tuesday.

"Many people are asking about the dinner last night. It was a regular dinner that we hold every two weeks," Tañada said.

"We just discussed on how to proceed expeditiously [with the] budget. The [NBN] issue was also taken up. But on the ouster, there was no such thing," he said.

Villafuerte said the younger De Venecia's accusation against the President's husband was not a good enough basis to initiate the Speaker's ouster.

He said De Venecia should instead take seriously the ethics case against him as it might provide a valid basis for his ouster.

Nueva Ecija Rep. Eduardo Joson called on De Venecia to take a leave of absence while the House committee on ethics hears the case against him.

In his complaint, Pulido accused De Venecia of allowing his position to be used by his son for the latter to be awarded legislative franchises in 1995 and in 1997.

Hike in unprogrammed Palace funds questioned

By Norman Bordadora

A MEMBER OF THE SELF-STYLED REform bloc in the majority coalition in the House of Representatives yesterday sounded the alarm over the increase in the unprogrammed funds of the Executive Branch, particularly the Office of the President, in the proposed 2008 national budget.

Quezon Rep. Lorenzo Tañada III, the chair of the House committee on human rights, said the unprogrammed funds have increased from P61 billion this year to P114.5 billion in 2008.

A check with Tañada's office showed the correct figures, however. The Office of the President's unprogrammed funds have almost tripled from just P22.5 billion in 2007 to P61 billion next year.

"[The] glaring point is that unprogrammed funds has gone up in disproportionate proportion to the people's level of trust in the government," Tañada said.

The House has begun plenary deliberations on the more than P1.2 trillion national budget for 2008.

An opposition member agreed with Tañada, and referred to the unprogrammed funds as President Macapagal-Arroyo's "beef barrel."

"Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives have always been criticized for their countryside development fund or pork barrel," said House Deputy Minority Leader Teofisto Guingona II of Bukidnon.

A University of the Philippines professor, former national treasurer Leonor Briones, has proposed that P25 billion of the P61 billion in unspecified allocation for the Office of the President be re-aligned to social services like education and health, and agriculture and the environment.

Briones, a co-convener of the people's organization Social Watch Philippines, was allowed by the House committee on appropriations to present an alternative budget before the committee hearings ended last week.

"We not only said that there should be increased budget for social services. We were also able to identify where government can get the funds," Briones said.

"The biggest item is the P61 billion in unprogrammed funds of the OP," she said.

"There is a line there that says P30.5 billion was being allocated for 'support for infrastructure and social progress.' But it does not say how it will be spent," she added.

Briones said that the P30.5 billion alone is more than enough to increase allocations for education by P12.3 billion, for health by P5.6 billion, for agriculture by P158.5 billion and for the environment by P6.9 billion.

GMA urged to appoint permanent CHEd chair

By Jerry E. Esplanada

SAYING THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER Education (CHEd) is undergoing a "leadership crisis," a group of top CHed officials has asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to appoint a permanent chair.

In a two-page letter, CHEd officials said a permanent chair would "sustain the moral ascendancy and academic leadership" in the tertiary education system and prevent a "failure in the delivery of vital public services."

Some agency insiders, meanwhile, called for the immediate replacement of CHEd chair Romulo Neri who was earlier appointed to the post in a temporary capacity.

The commission needs a "full-time chair," they asserted.

Neri has been "tied up lately not with CHEd matters but with the (national broadband network) controversy," noted the same CHed sources.

Not staying long

Neri, a former socio-economic planning secretary, took over the CHed portfolio on Aug. 16 from Carlito Puno due to the latter's alleged failure to aggressively implement the ladderized education program, among others.

Neri has repeatedly said he wanted to finish his job at CHEd within six months and insisted he has "no ambition of staying here longer."

"We are aware that Chairman Romulo Neri's stay at CHEd is temporary. Hence, we appeal to Her Excellency to put special attention to the appointment of officials in the commission in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act number 7722, otherwise known as the Higher Education Act of 1994," CHed officials told Ms Arroyo.

The letter was signed by deputy executive director Julito Vitriolo, directors Jean Tayag, Amelia Biglete, Eloisa Paderanga, Carmen Dormitorio, Emilou Yanga, Maria Rita Ortiz, Joanna Cuenca, Isabel Inlayo, Isabela Mahlaer, Evelyn Pascua, Freddie Bernal, Evelyn Mojica, William Malitiao, Luisa Valencia and Regina Fortes.

Troubleshooter

Neri has marching orders from the President to "troubleshoot" the commission from August this year to February 2008.

But Neri is in a "difficult situation," said the CHEd staff, citing his involvement in NBN controversy.

In their Oct. 1 letter, the CHEd officials claimed the agency's leadership crisis was aggravated by the "unbridled ambition" of some afficials whom they also accuse of sowing "confusion, dissension and distrust among fellow officials and staff."

The same officials, however, did not name names.

But CHEd insiders said the officials were apparently referring to Neri and Commissioner Nona Ricafort.

The CHEd Employees Association (CEA) has urged the President not to appoint Ricafort as Neri's replacement, saying she was not qualified and deserving of the position.

'Misled, deceived'

It was Ricafort who blew the whistle on the alleged irregularities surrounding the P550-million call center laboratory project of CHEd.

Ricafort claimed she was "misled and deceived" by the CHEd Bids and Awards committee, headed by Vitriolo, into approving the project, also known as the Integrated Multisite Business Processing Outsourcing-Incubation Contact Center or IMBPO-ICC.

Ricafort also accused Vitriolo of "pressuring CHEd people to sign documents asking for my resignation because I do not have, as he claimed, the needed credentials."

"His motives are questionable because he is the acting chair of the BAC that awarded the IMBPO-ICC contract which I'm questioning," she said.

Vitriolo has denied Ricafort's allegations, saying the project was "above board."

Dutch court keeps Joma out of jail

THE HAGUE—A DUTCH COURT ON Wednesday rejected a prosecution appeal against the release of Philippine communist leader Jose Maria Sison, accused of being involved in murders in the Philippines.

The ruling means that Sison will remain free during the Dutch police investigation into his alleged involvement in the murders of several political associates in the Philippines.

The appeals court said "the prosecution file lacks enough concrete clues that Sison can be directly linked to the assassinations which is needed to prosecute him as a perpetrator."

The ruling upheld a lower court order in September to set Sison free.

The appeals court decision does not preclude him from being prosecuted on murder charges. The court only rules on the request to keep someone in custody, while it is the public prosecutor's office that decides on whether or not to press charges.

Sison, the founding chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines and its military wing, the New People's Army, has been living in the Netherlands since 1987. He was arrested on Aug. 28 in the Dutch town of Utrecht where he lives.

He is suspected of giving orders, from the Netherlands, to murder his former political associates in the Philippines, Romulo Kintanar and Arturo Tabara.

According to Dutch prosecutors, Sison, 68, ordered the assassination of former NPA leader Kintanar, who was killed on Jan. 23, 2003. The murder was claimed by the NPA itself in an official publication, they said.

Prosecutors are also investigating his role in the murders of Tabara and his son-in-law Stephen Ong on Sept. 26, 2006. Tabara was a member of the highest command of the NPA and his assassination was also claimed by that group. *AFP*

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House may only touch 23% of P1.2-T national budget

From page A1

product of two weeks of marathon sessions by the appropriations committee and its subcommittees.

In determining the best version of the 2008 budget, Lagman said the lawmakers should "revisit and revise our inept and injurious policies on debt service and seek innovative means of liberating our people from the debt trap."

But they can do so only by repealing the law on automatic appropriation for debt service and "recapture for the legislature its undiluted constitutional supremacy over the purse," he said, adding:

2 'follies'

"We can express the strong sense of Congress against the payment of tainted and worthless loans through appropriate special provisions in the general appropriations bill."

Lagman cited two key loans, the payment of which had weighed heavily on the annual budget appropriation.

He said the "useless and fraudulently procured loan" that covered the construction of the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant was an "inordinately expensive folly."

According to Lagman, the government has paid since 1986 a total of P64.7 billion—P43.5 billion for the principal amortization and P21.2 billion in interest—for the power plant. The loan has been fully paid.

"All for absolutely nothing beneficial to the Filipino people," he said, pointing out that the total payments for the power plant was bigger than the combined appropriations for 2008 for the Departments of Health (P16.3 billion, including the budget for four government hospitals), Agriculture (P23.8 billion), and Transportation and Communication (P22.3 billion).

Lagman said another "folly" was the loan granted by Bank Austria worth P503.6 million for the purchase of "substandard" medical waste incinerators for 26 government hospitals.

He said that while the equipment had been banned under the Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999, the interest payment for the loan in 2008 was pegged at P17.7 million, and for the principal amortization, P79.3 million.

"The government continues to pay this useless and toxic loan through automatic appropriation," he said.

36 centavos daily

In a privilege speech delivered on Tuesday night, Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said public health .was among the low priorities of the Arroyo administration.

Each Filipino is getting from the government a measly 36 centavos daily for his health needs, the party-list lawmaker said.

The computation was based on the current health budget of P11.56 billion, which supposedly represented only 1.1 percent of the total national expenditure program. The amount had significantly dwindled from P18.7 billion 10 years ago.

Ocampo said the existing 36-centavo-daily health budget—or only P132.9 annually—would not exactly improve in next year's proposed budget of P1.227 trillion.

He said the proposed health budget for 2008 was P15.7 billion, representing the amount allocated for the DOH.

"While the allocation for health has been shrinking, the budget allocation for debt servicing and the military has been consistently getting the lion's share of the national budget," Ocampo said.

He said the military budget had increased by 11 percent since 2001, and that last year alone, the allocation stood at P82.1 billion.

P20.1B if...

The proposed health budget for 2008 will actually rise to P20.1 billion. But that's if the budgets of four government hospitals and that of the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. would be added to the DOH budget proposal of P15.7 billion, according to Dr. Gene Nisperos, secretary general of the Health Alliance for Democracy.

The group, a network of doctors, nurses and other health professionals, helped Ocampo analyze the national expenditure program on the perspective of health allocation.

Ocampo said that while the P20.1-billion total health budget represented a significant increase, the additional amount would not be translated to "expanding access to health" or "increasing number of doctors and nurses."

He said much of the amount, or P1.2 billion, would go to salary adjustments, and a similar amount to "family health, including family planning."

Another P1.3 billion in capital outlay will supposedly be spent on the "health facilities enhancement program."

But Ocampo said the program would likely be "accessible to those with the capacity to pay, rather than the poorest Filipinos."

'Doctors to the Barrios'

Ocampo also questioned the differences in the amounts allocated for the "Health Information Systems and Technology Development" (an additional P125 million) and the "Doctors to the Barrios and Rural Health Practice Program" (a tiny increase of P6 million).

"Doctors to the Barrios" is a program intended to stem the tide of doctors and other health professionals leaving the Philippines for higher-paying jobs abroad. It's supposed to provide incentives to doctors who will spend a significant period working in far-flung areas.

According to Ocampo, the program has been existing on a P42.3-million budget.

Other hefty cuts

The lawmaker also drew his colleagues' attention to hefty cuts in other key item budgets.

In the proposed 2008 budget, subsidy for indigent patients was cut from P16 million to P10 million.

At least 12 government hospitals also stand to lose P121 million—from P2.7 billion this year to P2.579 billion next year. Among them are the Dr. Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center, East Avenue Medical Center, Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital and San Lazaro Hospital.

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Pinoy Times
ANG BUMULUSOK ANG PLANETA NI ERAP

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, October 4, 2007
26th Week in Ordinary Time
Francis of Assisi

1st Reading: Neh 8:1-4, 5-6, 7-12
Gospel: Luke 10:1-12

The Lord appointed seventy-two other disciples and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place, where he himself was to go. And he said to them, "The harvest is rich, but the workers are few. So you must ask the Lord of the harvest to send workers to his harvest. Courage! I am sending you like lambs among wolves. Set off without purse or bag or sandals; and do not stop at the homes of those you know.

"Whatever house you enter, first bless them saying: 'Peace to this house.' If a friend of peace lives there, the peace shall rest upon that person. But if not, the blessing will return to you. Stay in that house eating and drinking at their table, for the worker deserves to be paid. Do not move from house to house.

"When they welcome you in any town, eat what they offer you. Heal the sick who are there and say to them: 'The kingdom of God has drawn near to you.'

"But in any town where you are not welcome, go to the marketplace and proclaim: 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off and leave with you. But know and be sure that the kingdom of God had come to you.' I tell you that on the Judgment Day it will be better for Sodom than for this town."

Commentary

Ezra reads the scroll of the law and all the people stand and listen attentively! This is the liturgy of the word with the book held high for all to see. The people are blessed and they prostrate themselves before the Lord. The law is interpreted, and when the long reading is finished the people are told to rejoice for the day is holy unto the Lord. And when they feast, all are included and fed.

The disciples are sent out to preach the Word of hope, the good news of God to the people, in pairs. They are to preach not only with words, but with the way they dress, travel, where they stay, and the peace that they bring forth with them. They are not to 'shop around' for a better place to stay but stay where they have been welcomed—where the people have listened to and responded to the Word of the Lord. If the Word is refused then they are to leave. The Word must be preached and people must have the chance to take it to heart or to ignore it. Do we honor the Word as these people do?

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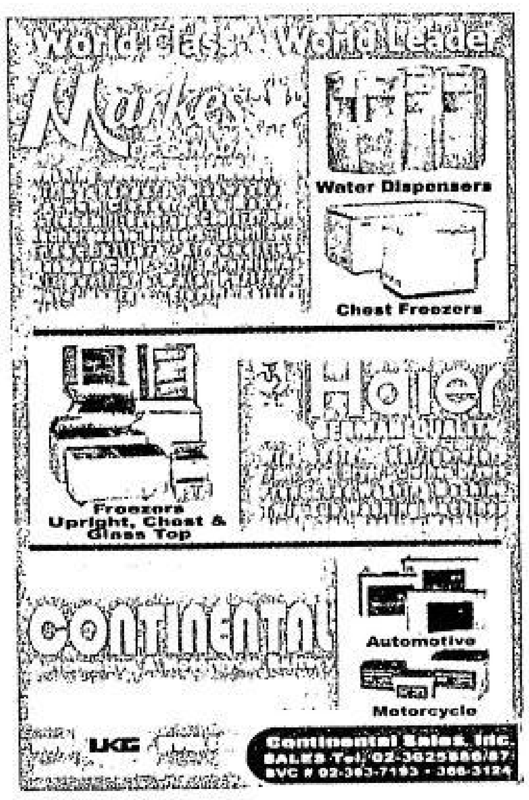

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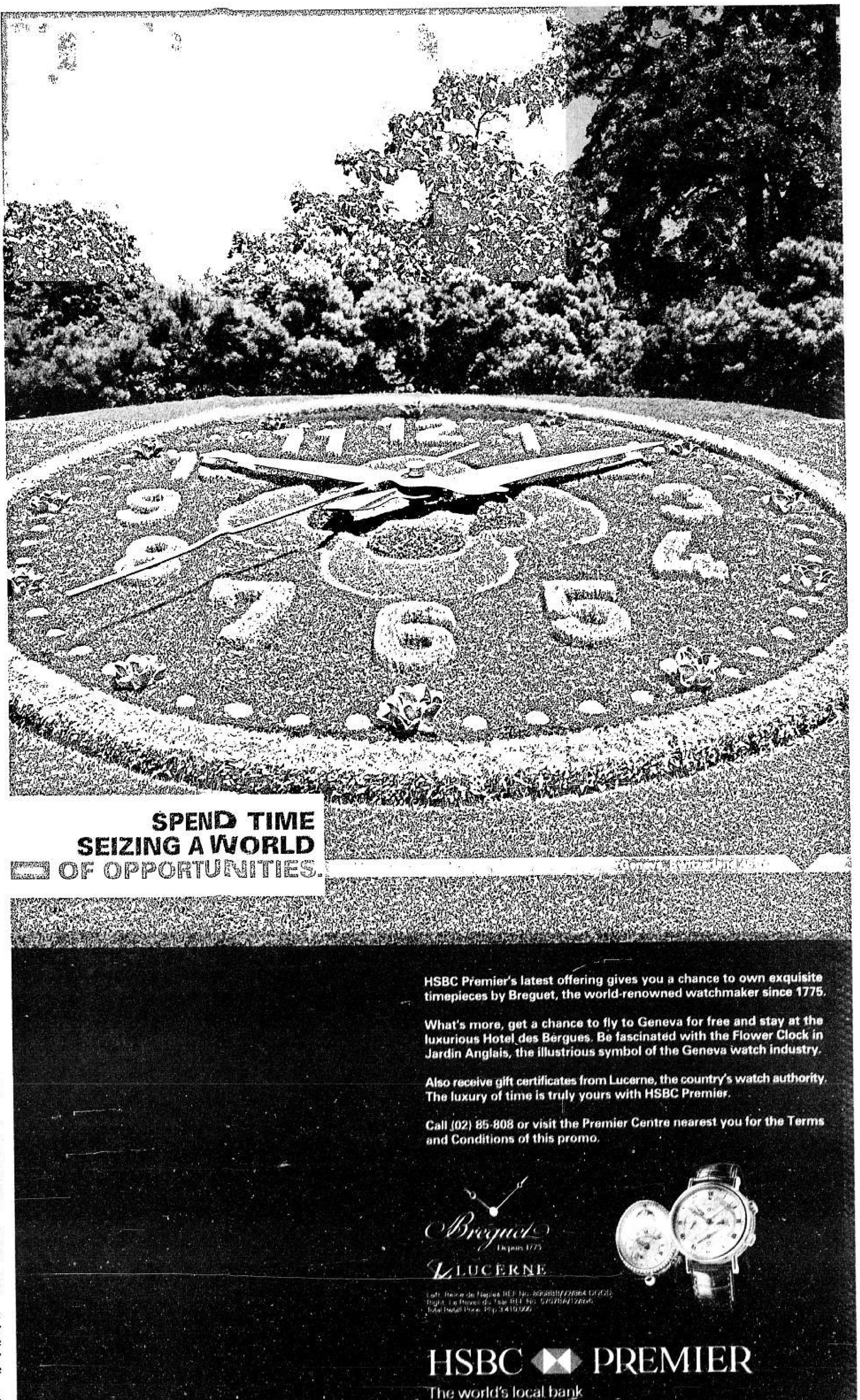

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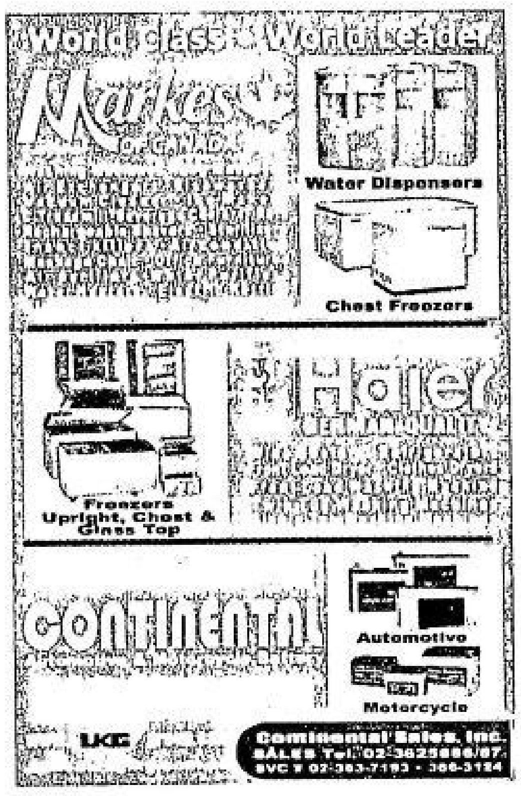

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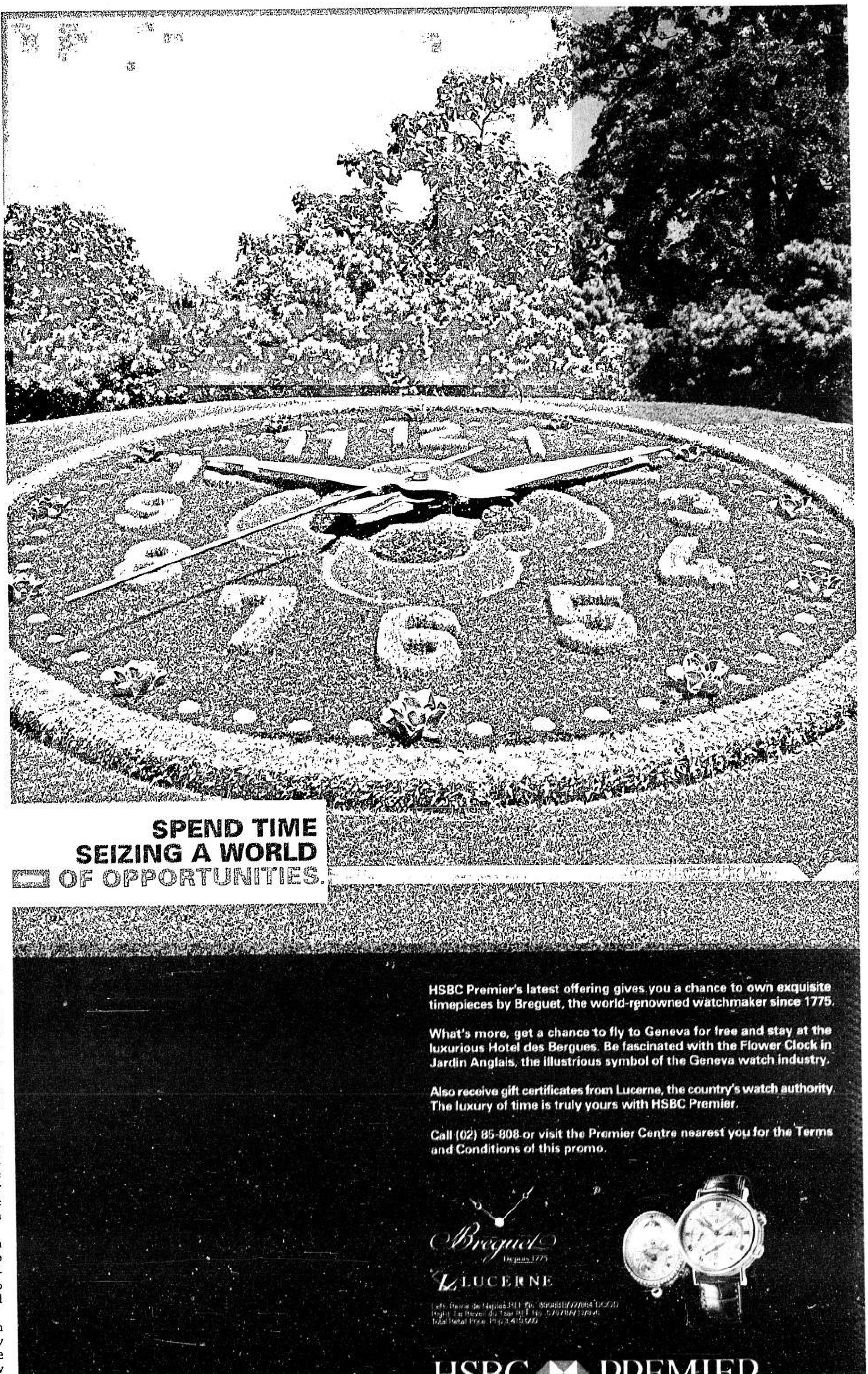

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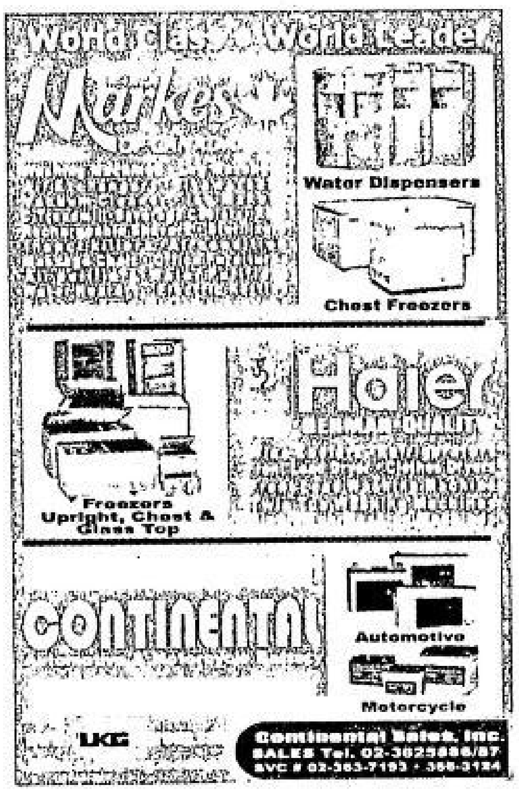
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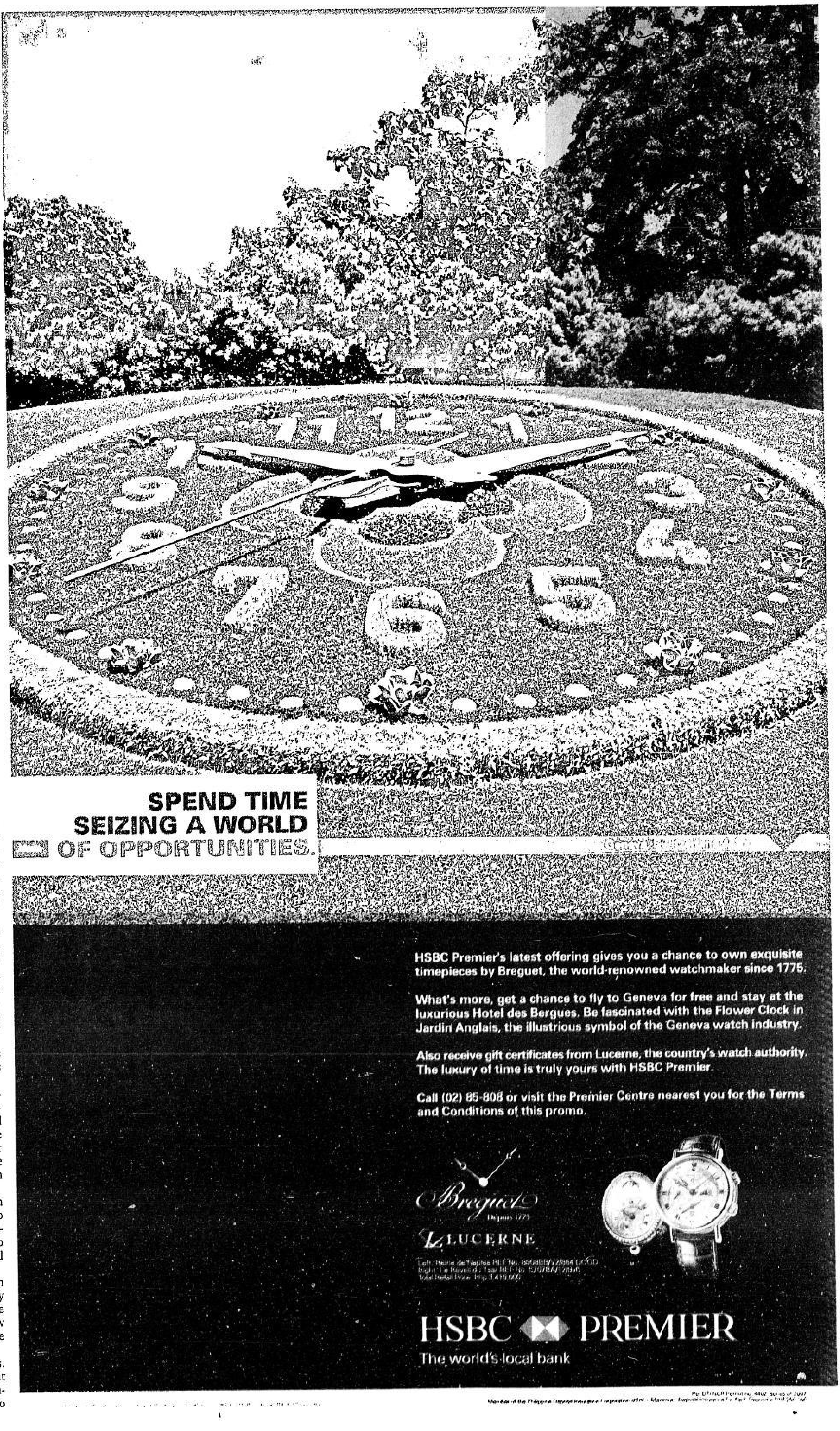

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Reached for comment in Manila, US Ambassador Kristie Kenney yesterday said "we all have great respect for Philippine health care and Philippine health care workers throughout the world are known for their dedication and compassion. (They) are much sought after."

But Kenney admitted that she only watched Philippine TV shows and not US shows. "You got much more information than I do … I haven't heard the story."

For decades, the Philippines has been one of the main sources of foreign-trained health professionals in the United States—a trend that is expected to continue as a severe shortage of nurses and other health workers grips the US health care system.

"The United States recognizes the academic standards of Philippine medical and nursing schools and, in general, does not require additional schooling in this country for Filipino health care professionals who wish to work here," Aragon said.

The Philippines is considered a top "medical tourism" destination for foreigners, including US citizens, who choose to undergo surgical and other medical procedures in the country because of its "high-quality and reasonably priced medical services," she added.

The controversial scene on "Desperate Housewives" featured Mayer, who visited the office of Dr. Adam Mayfair (played by Nathan Fillion). Mayfair hinted that Mayer might be experiencing signs of menopause and wanted her to take a blood test to be sure.

Mayer agreed to take the test—but only after demanding to check Mayfair's credentials and making sure "they are not from some med (medical) school in the Philippines."

The widely watched episode opened the popular show's fourth season. The show is written and produced by Marc Cherry, who was also behind the hit show "The Golden Girls" (NBC, 1985-1992).

Under fire, again

This is not the first time that "Desperate Housewives" has come under fire for perceived racism.

A New York Times article, published when the first season premiered in October 2004, said: "Television executives have giddily reverted to the sexism and racism that brought the humor police down on the networks … The backlash is most obvious on 'Desperate Housewives' and 'Boston Legal,' ABC's heralded new dramatic comedies."

The author, Alessandra Stanley, also said "Desperate Housewives" was entertaining, "but it turns the clock back to pre-Betty Friedan America, lampooning four bored, frustrated, white upper-middle-class ladies who lunch." Betty Friedan was a well-known advocate of women's rights and author of the "Feminine Mystique," the feminists' bible in the United States.

Blog entries on the perceived racial slurs are not limited to Filipino sites. On ABC News Discussions, this blog entry was found:

"I have just received an e-mail petition being circulated among the Filipino communities. Subject of the petition is an alleged racial slur that was mentioned in the 9/30 episode of Desperate Housewives—Teri Hatcher wanting to ensure that the diploma of the medical doctor examining her was not from the Philippines. Was this funny to you?"

The Philippine Medical Association (PMA), for its part, is set to raise the issue to the US Federal Communications Commission and the World Medical Association to ask for a rectification of what it considered "demeaning" comments.

Dr. Bu Castro, PMA spokesperson, said in an interview that the group met yesterday and decided on top of a complaint to the television network which aired the show and its producers to bring the matter to the government regulators.

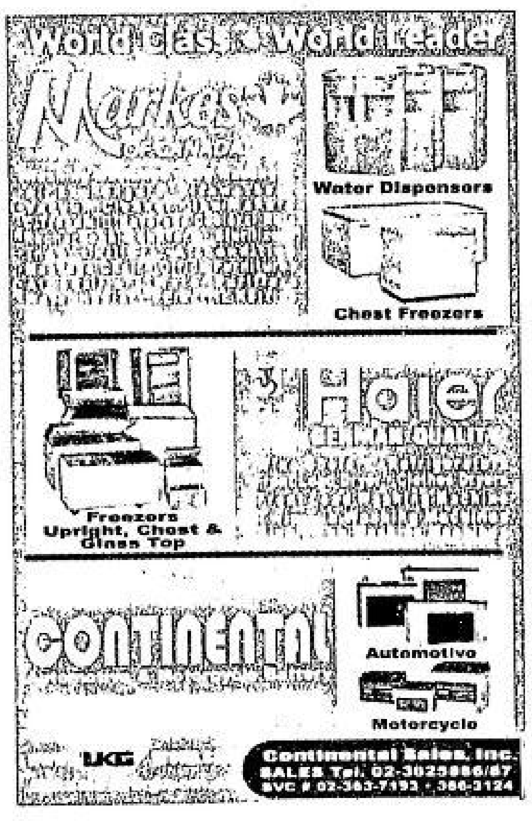
"The comments were totally outrageous. We are sending a complaint … to ask that the same be rectified because it is demeaning to the character and dignity of Filipino doctors," said Castro.

The USFCC, which was established by the Communications Act of 1934, is an independent government agency charged with regulating interstate and international communications by radio, television, wire, satellite and cable.

Better than US docs

"I don't really know [where this is coming from]. Maybe they are hurting because our doctors are better than them. Filipino doctors have good bedside manners and good rapport. They empathize well with their patients and are very competent," said Duque.

He said a number of Filipino doctors had, in fact, become professors in Ivy League medical schools in the United States. This, he said, pointed to the competence and the ability of Filipino doctors to manage diseases since they have trained in these top US schools and passed all their exams. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Beverly T. Natividad and Alcuin Papa in Manila*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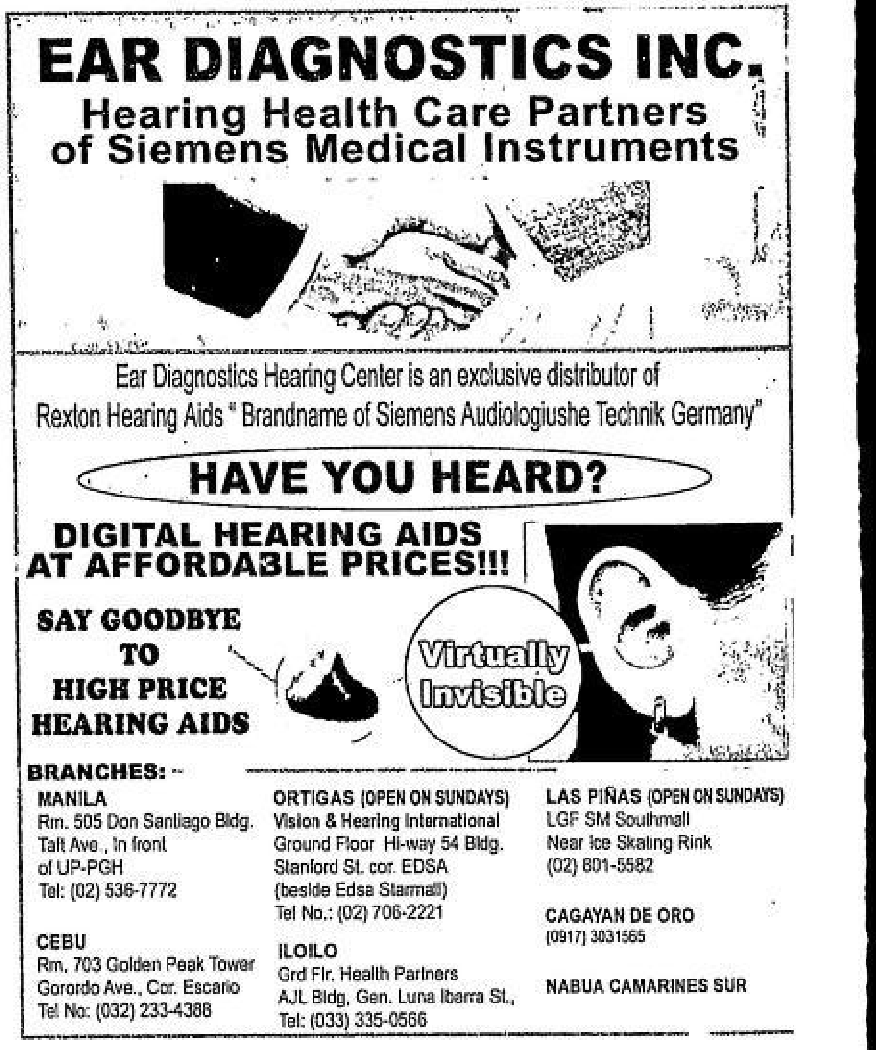
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Controversial NBN deal dead but gov't still has option

By Doris C. Dumlao, Riza T. Olchondra and Christian V. Esguerra

THE CONTROVERSIAL NATIONAL BROADband Network (NBN) deal with China's ZTE Corp. is dead, but the government can still choose to pursue the project under a different tack, Acting Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Augusto Santos said yesterday.

Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza also expressed the hope that "after the dust has settled down, the project would push (through) in a manner most advantageous and acceptable to the Filipino people because it is good for efficient governance."

His office has not decided on how to go about this.

Santos said government could pursue other options on how to put up its own broadband network, such as through a build-operate-transfer (BOT) scheme with a new private sector proponent or by tapping the services of local telecommunication companies.

Asked whether the National Economic and Development Authority had any study that could refute the claim of UP economists that the NBN project was not necessary, Santos said there was none.

But that the Neda board and the interagency Investment Coordination Committee had approved the project based on an assessment of its economic viability.

"The biggest economic value is the coordination of the activities of government. Government is one big bureaucracy and there has to be an efficient communication system within government. That's the main justification," Santos said.

He added that the government would generate savings in its operations with such a broadband backbone behind its communication flow. *With a report from Ronnel W. Domingo*

NBN jokes: Broadband ...

From page A1

project with China's ZTE Corp.

The hearings have became the nation's No. 1 "*teleserye*"—a "circus," as one stockbroker describes the nationally televised show, enlivened by the antics of "clowns."

Said one text message that hit cyberspace as interest in the probe grew: "Watch the country's latest musical sensation, with Mike Arroyo on drums, Benjie Abalos on bass, Larry Mendoza on lead guitar, Gary Teves on keyboards, Asec Formoso as sound mixer and the one and only Gloria (of Hello Garci fame) on lead vocals, called the Broadband, playing Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Chinatown malls, Sundays at 168. Free of charge, subsidized by the Filipino people."

168 is the infamous mall at Divisoria that was temporarily shut down last year for selling dirt cheap smuggled goods from China.

Uncomfortable situation

"When Filipinos are placed in an uncomfortable situation, the first reaction is to actually laugh or smile. We're the kind of people who don't like confrontations and spreading text jokes and ring tones is a way for us to cope with serious situations," Navarro says.

For example, Romulo Neri's revelation "Sec, *may* 200 *ka dito*" during the Sept. 26 hearing on the $329-million NBN deal has found its way into salutations of some wags.

Its meaning depends on its interrogative or declarative intonation, as in: "Do you have 200?" or "You have 200 here."

The latter translation was reportedly uttered by Commission on Election Chair Benjamin Abalos to Neri, erstwhile director general of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), during a round of golf on the fairways of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club.

Neri, who has been temporarily transferred to head the Commission on Higher Education, presumed it was a bribe offer to the tune of P200 million so the Neda would endorse the ZTE deal that will digitally wire the nation's bureaucracy down to the remotest barangay.

Not 'Bagong Daan' but '200 Daan'

Neri's testimony also produced this text message: "News flash!! A new group has emerged to topple Bagong Daan (New Way) of (televangelist) Bro. Ely and Bagong Daan of INC (Iglesia ni Cristo). The new group is called Dalawang Daan ni Abalos."

No less than the President's husband has been dragged into the controversy exposed by De Venecia, namesake son of the House Speaker and proponent of an "unsolicited bid" for a build-operate-transfer (BOT) broadband deal.

The BOT scheme—at no cost to the government other than users' fees—was nixed in favor of a "tied" concessional loan from China for 20 years at 3 percent annual interest after a five-year grace.

The deal was said to have been hammered out over rounds of golf in Shenzen in China and Wack Wack. The Chinese reportedly gave Abalos fabulous commissions and Chinese girls as bedmates during his golfing sorties in Shenzen.

Abalos, who has resigned as Comelec chair, denies all the charges and has announced he is filing libel charges against both Neri and the young De Venecia whose initial exposé immediately touched off a swirl of text jokes.

As the scandal unraveled, reluctant witnesses showed up before the Senate inquisitors. Transportation and Communication Secretary Leandro Mendoza made a somewhat distant cameo appearance and his assistant secretary Lorenzo Formoso put in a personal appearance at performance level. As did the somber Finance Secretary Margarito Teves.

Pinoy way

"If we can lighten it up, we can make the problem easier to bear ... This is our way of lampooning our politicians ... It's a way of using our artistic quality," Navarro says.

The swift circulation of the ZTE jokes, in much the same fashion as the "Hello Garci" gags, reflects the public's general sentiment put lightly, Navarro says.

"When you hear it, it's funny and the reason why people forward it is because they want to shame the people behind the scandal. It's to say the government is so crass. If you really do not care much, you won't forward it," she says.

"It's a way of showing we care. It might be a weird way, but it's the Pinoy way," Navarro says. Otherwise, if it were just a wisecrack on a whim it would die a quick death.

Mobile activist group TXTPower launched the AB-ZTE-FG protest ring tone it had culled from YouTube, the widely visited Google website.

TXTPower swamped cell phones with text jokes at the height of calls on Ms Arroyo to resign after the "Hello Garci" wiretapping controversy broke out in June 2005. The wiretap, purportedly between Ms Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, was evidence Ms Arroyo stole the 2004 Presidential election, according to the opposition. The President denies this.

Collective anger

TXTPower president Anthony Ian Cruz has urged Filipinos to download, use, repost and forward the ring tone "as a sign of our collective anger over the latest scandal to hit the Arroyo administration and demand that the investigation result in the prosecution of bribers, bribe takers, fixers and influence peddlers."

Political science professor Amado Mendoza says he likes most a text message he received last week while Ms Arroyo was attending the UN General Assembly in New York last week.

It was a parody of a fictional conversation between the President and her executive secretary, Eduardo Ermita. "GMA: Ed, *presidente pa ba ako?* Ermita: *Pipilitin namin, ma'am.*"

Translation: Ed, am I still the president? Ermita: We will try and keep it that way.

Professor Mendoza says Filipinos like to talk and laugh at a scandal or political tragedy.

'You are not alone'

Mendoza recalls the 1983 assassination of Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino on his return from three years of self-exile in the United States to rally the opposition against the dictator Ferdinand Marcos. The military said Aquino was killed by communist assassin Rolando Galman, who himself was gunned down by Aquino's military escorts.

Mendoza says that the most quoted joke then was: "Ninoy, *hindi ka nag-iisa*; Galman, *naisahan ka*; Macoy, *nag-iisa ka na*."

Translation: Ninoy, you are not alone; Galman, you have been one upped; Marcos, you are now alone.

There were no cell phones then. The message found its way in placards and streamers protesters carried during demonstrations in the waning days of the Marcos rule.

During the troubled days of President Joseph "Erap" Estrada, an active text brigade helped bring about Edsa II in 2001 that ousted the popular movie actor turned politician.

Wristband, broadband, husband

Estrada still figures in the NBN text jokes: "*Ang nagpabagsak kay* Erap—wristband*; kay* Abalos—*broadband; at kay* Gloria, husband."

Translation: What brought down Erap was his wristband; Abalos, broadband; and Gloria, husband.

"It is our way of consoling ourselves, especially when the people we perceive are the villains or the antiheroes are much too powerful for us. The powerful are the antiheroes in the jokes," Mendoza says.

"With respect to NBN, all these text messages reflect the frustration of the people," he says.

Mendoza refers to the claim in June that the NBN contracts were stolen immediately after they were signed in April in China. This came to light, perhaps deliberately, only in a forum at the Ateneo Professional Schools two months later.

Essence of democracy

"The essence of democracy is the need to explain ... straightforward questions need straightforward answers," Professor Mendoza says.

He concedes that some of those deprecating text messages have been authored by forces struggling to bring down Ms Arroyo.

"There is a legitimate source of frustration and dissatisfaction of the people, and those who cannot wait to bring her down are using this opportunity," Mendoza says.

Where are those text messages leading to, given the apparent street protest fatigue and the opposition failure to ignite another Edsa uprising following the "Hello Garci" scandal. After having a laugh, what next?

"It is difficult to say," says Mendoza.

Downside to tragicomedy

That's where Navarro finds a downside to the current tragicomedy.

"We probably take too much time laughing. When we stop laughing, what do we do? If laughter takes care of the embarrassment, after that, we should sit down and think of what we should do about it, not just keep on laughing and make the embarrassment permanent. We also have to deal with it," she says.

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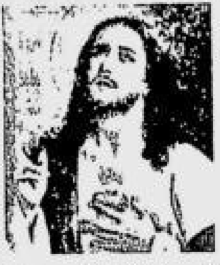
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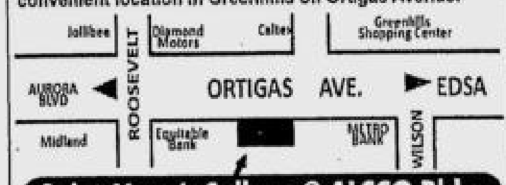

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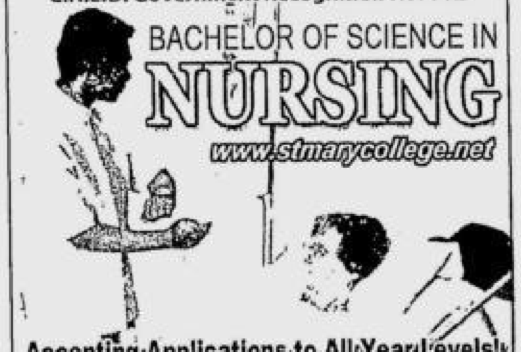
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The NBN deal has cracked. It does not matter if Abalos has resigned or Neri has become a marked man due to his non-cooperation and silence. We all know the stench of this deal and many other onerous deals emanate from Malacanang. The diarrhea of issues on corruption, treason, immorality and illegitimacy,etc. all point to the First Couple and their cohorts. To insist on evidence beyond reasonable doubt is garbage and belabors the point.

Efforts have been done to lift us out of the stinking quagmire. We acknowledge the sacrifice and leadership of Gen. Boy Miranda, Gen. Danny Lim, Senator/Capt. Antonio Trillanes III and their confreres in dentention. But we must not rest until final victory is achieved. Our national redemption lies in our collective will to triumph over our present miseries and reverse our acquiescense to evil and crime in governance.

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Animal Day debate: Should Manila Zoo be shut down?

From page A1

SHE LOVES her dogs so much that internationally acclaimed orchestra conductor Helen Quach had them fly with her from their home in Australia to be with her here. Saigon-born Chinese-Australian Quach, who is well-known to Filipino music lovers, has been in the Philippines for more than a month (her second visit this year) for a series of outreach concerts in the provinces to help raise funds for the Manila Symphony Orchestra as well as to give lectures. An animal rights advocate and avid snorkeler, Quach, a cancer survivor, opposes the forced microchipping of pets and has vigorously challenged it in Australian courts. Quach is shown here with Black, Zorro and Tinkar feeling at home in a farm outside Manila where she stays to relax and help in farming when she is not on the podium. "Jesus and St. Francis loved animals," she told the INQUIRER. CERES DOYO

"It's really sad," said Mona Consunji, board secretary of the Animal Welfare Coalition, of the Manila Zoo's current state. "That elephant, I think is already going crazy," referring to Mali, prancing about in his small pen near the gate.

"If you watch that elephant for 30 minutes, you'd see that it's doing the same thing over and over again," she said.

But while Peta wants the creatures to go back to their environment, Consunji said her group of 15 nongovernment animal rights groups disagreed because the zoo animals would not stand a chance in the wild.

"We do not agree with that because the animals cannot sustain themselves anymore ... Where will you put them, in a sanctuary? Will (Peta) spend for it? If you do a campaign, you provide a solution," she said.

The foreign case of dolphin "Keiko," who was released from a zoo and died four months after, showed that captive animals had lost their ability to hunt for their own food, Consunji added.

Better care needed

So instead, Consunji said zoo animals should just receive better care, and proper space—certainly lacking in the 5.5-hectare area along Adriatico and Mabini Streets in Malate.

"We're not for zoos, but Manila Zoo, because it's already existing, they should rehabilitate the animals and improve their condition and confinement," she said.

Indeed, much work has to be done inside the zoo despite recent physical facelifts.

As for "zoochosis," Dr. Donald Manalastas, chief of the Manila Zoo's zoological division, claimed none of the animals had it and if they did, they addressed it immediately with "behavioral programs."

"Like this wooden device we made for the monkeys. We would put food inside it, and they would have to think of how to get it," Manalastas said.

In an earlier interview, Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim said he would add more animals to the zoo's 92 species from Calauit Island in Palawan.

Gradual phaseout

Consunji vehemently opposed Lim's plan.

"Keep them in Calauit, they're doing fine there. They shouldn't add more animals, they should just make the area bigger," she said, adding that would reject any moves to import animals not endemic to the Philippines.

Consunji said her group was for a "gradual phaseout" of the Manila Zoo and other such facilities—meaning wait for the current crop of zoo animals to pass away without replacing them.

Various media features on wildlife, she added, should make up for the zoo's loss.

Endangered species

"I think that's good enough because we have to keep them in the wild. I think it's a privilege for us to see one," she said. "We don't want any more zoos to open, so let's just keep what we already have and improve their confinement."

The Animal Welfare Coalition, which supports people who take care of rescued animals, said attention should be given instead to species dwindling in numbers.

"What we need is more places to rehabilitate endangered species, more sanctuaries. It's the government's role but the private sector can also help them with that. It's their job to protect our animals," Consunji said.

Another animal rights group, Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), agrees, saying zoo facilities hold little educational value and "were not even 1 percent of what these animals' natural habitats are."

"While it may be argued that there is no such thing as 'the wild' anymore because we have lost a lot of our forests, jungles, etc. still, the thrust should be to create sanctuaries or reserves—not zoos," said Anna Cabrera of PAWS.

Cabrera explained that in sanctuaries, an attempt to protect even a portion of the animals' natural habitat was being undertaken.

Paying back

"There is also an effort to rehabilitate animals for eventual release to the wild. Or, if this is not possible, sanctuaries aim to let the animals roam or live in peace with their "herd" or co-species, so that, at least, we humans attempt to "pay back" what we took away from them when we built our cities, homes and decimated their living areas (forests, etc.)," Cabrera explained.

However, unlike Peta, PAWS doesn't actively campaign for the closure of existing zoos as it cited its limited personnel and financial resources.

"We choose to focus on what we think are more pressing animal welfare issues like stopping dogfights, the dog meat trade; educating people about responsible pet ownership, and kind treatment of animals in general and attempting to change for the better people's perceptions about native dogs," Cabrera said.

The head of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau is also cautioning Peta against calling for the hasty closure of the Manila Zoo or any other zoo in Metro Manila.

Alternative facility

PAWB Director Theresa Mundita Lim said the zoo or any zoo could not be shut down without looking for an alternative facility for the animals and assessing their behavior, condition and fitness to go back to the wild.

"You can't just shut down a zoo if you don't know where to place them. That has been the practice in other countries. You have to find out where they should go," Lim said in an interview.

After years in captivity, animals may no longer know how to capture prey, and may end up dying in starvation, she said.

"Some of the animals in Manila Zoo have been there for so many years. They can't survive in the wild. There has to be behavioral assessment to see if they can still survive in the wild," Lim said. *With reports from TJ Burgonio and Nancy Carvajal*

MANILA STUDENTS REIGN SUPREME IN THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

DELA CRUZ, CHAMPION IN THE *PAMBANSANG TAGISAN NG TALINO 2007*

Nina Jyne Minette V. dela Cruz, a fourth year student of the Manila Science High School (MSHS), Division of City Schools (DCS), Manila, was hailed the National Champion of the Fourth Pambansang Tagisan ng Talino sa Wika at Panitikang Filipino 2007, an event sponsored by the Department of Education and the Bureau of Secondary Education.

Dela Cruz prevailed over the finalists from the 14 regions of the country and was awarded Php15,000, a trophy, a medal, and a certificate at Dacanlao G. Agoncillo National High School, Calaca, Batangas, August 30, 2007.

The Competition consisted of three categories: quiz on Philippine Grammar and Literature, extemporaneous speaking, and creative writing, meant to test the versatility and capacity of the students in Filipino.

Dela Cruz was trained by Mrs. Mirasol Gozo, a Mentor of Manila Science High School, from the division to the national level of the contest.

MORE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL WINNERS

Percival Byron S. Bueser and **Jonas M. Cura** won first place in the 4th Year Team Competition of the 2007 Metrobank MTAP-DepED Math Challenge (national level) held at Metrobank Plaza Auditorium, Makati City last April 2007. Their coach was Mrs. Zenaida E. Diaz of Manila Science High School.

Likewise, Percival Byron Brueser was awarded the gold medal in the 2nd International Young Mathematicians Competition (IYMC) held in Lucknow, India, November 30-December 8; 2006.He was awarded the Certificate of Recognition by the Department of Science and Technology, January 29, 2007.

These awarded students of Manila Science High School, with Mrs. Salud Sabado as its principal, bring home the fact that the Division of City Schools, Manila, will keep on aiming at and working for quality education and harnessing the potentials of the students to the fullest.

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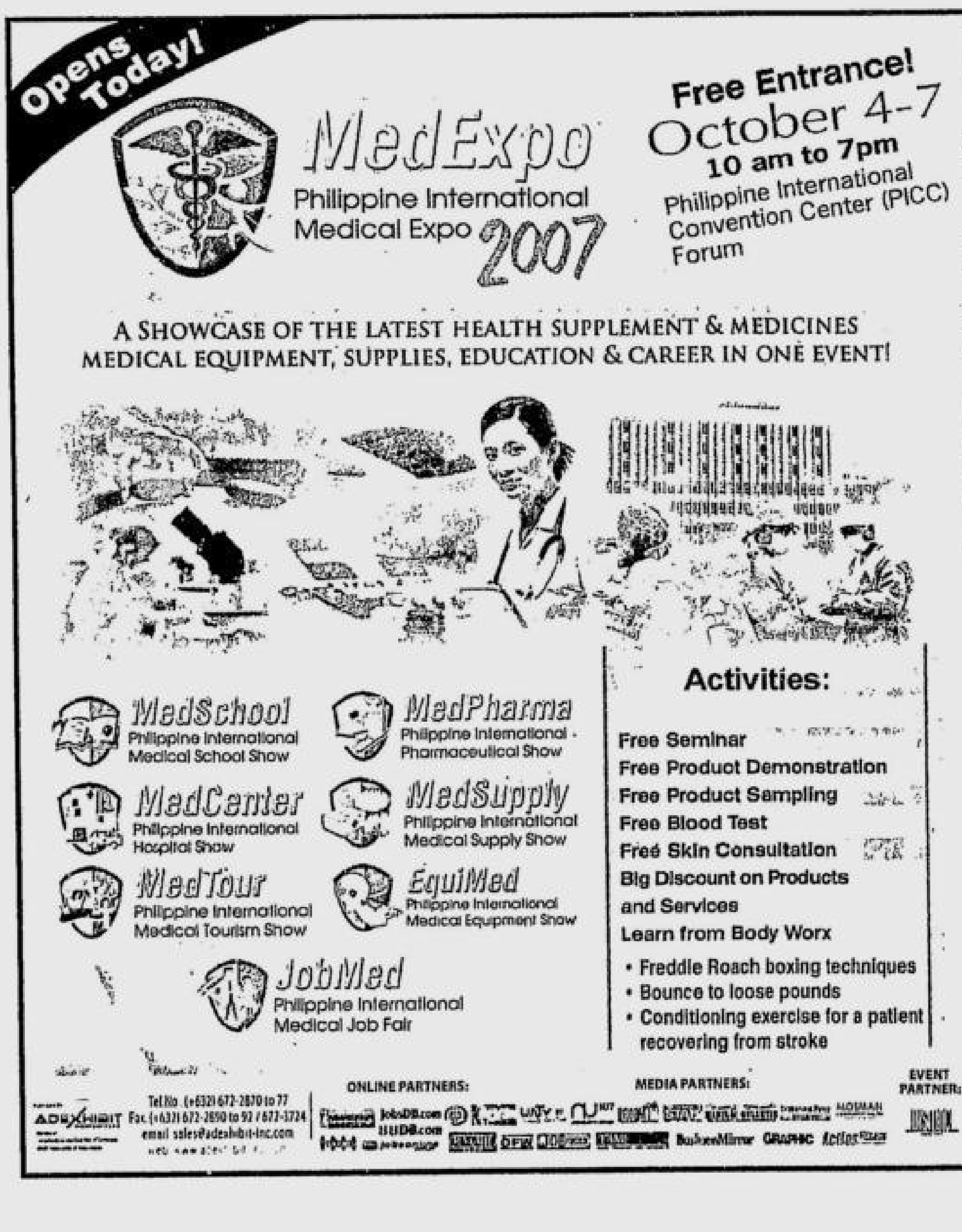

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MESSAGE
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This one-stop trade exhibition for medical industry suppliers and consumers showcases the latest quality medical and hospital products and services to, among others, fast- track the transfer of technology to medical professionals. It is indeed a convergence of the medical industry - - its potentials and opportunities - - under one roof. Aside from treating the public to a display and presentation of preventive and proper medication for good health, exhibitors will have the opportunity to present, promote, launch and share their products, services and expertise in the fields of pharmaceuticals, latest equipment, supplies, medical tourism and hospitals, among others. Topping this showcase of activities is the medical job fair, which is very apt for those pursuing a career in the medical and hospital professions.
It is in this light that I congratulate the organizers of this event, for I am sure that the public will not only appreciate the event but will take their time to engage the services and products of the exhibitors.
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MESSAGE
Warmest greetings to the organizers, officers, members and participants of the MEDEXPO-Philippine International Medical Expo 2007.
I laud the efforts of the organizers to bring together the different stakeholders of the medical industry under one roof. This is a great opportunity for the participants to showcase their products and services and for the medical professionals to obtain relevant information on the available opportunities and products in the market.
The government considers you as our staunch allies in strengthening our efforts in improving the quality of healthcare in the country. I fervently wish that you sustain the zeal by which you have fostered growth and interest in the upgrading and improvement of the medical sector.
Mabuhay kayong lahat!
ARTHUR "Dodo" Y. PINGOY, JR, M.D.

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TANGGAPAN NG ALKALDE
My warmest greetings to the organizers and exhibitors of the MEDEXPO- Philippine International Medical Expo 2007 at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC).
It is a great honor that Pasay City was chosen to serve as host city for this one- stop trade event that enables exhibitors to showcase, promote, launch and impart their products, service, and expertise to fast tract technology transfer in the medical profession. The Pasay City government also commends the organizers for including a Medical Job Fair in this 4-day event, giving our countrymen the chance to land work with the companies joining the exposition.
This 7-in-1 concept is also a rare opportunity for the public to learn of preventive measures and proper medication of some ailments for good health and well-being, as well as to take a closer look at the latest offerings of the various fields of the medical profession.
To the organizers, visitors and guests of the Philippine International Medical Expo 2007, I join my fellow Pasayenos in welcoming you all to our fair city.
Mabuhay!
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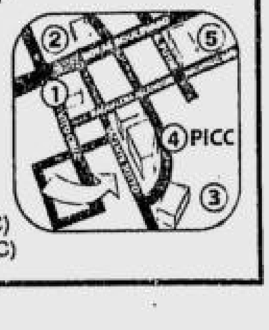

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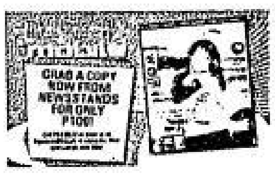
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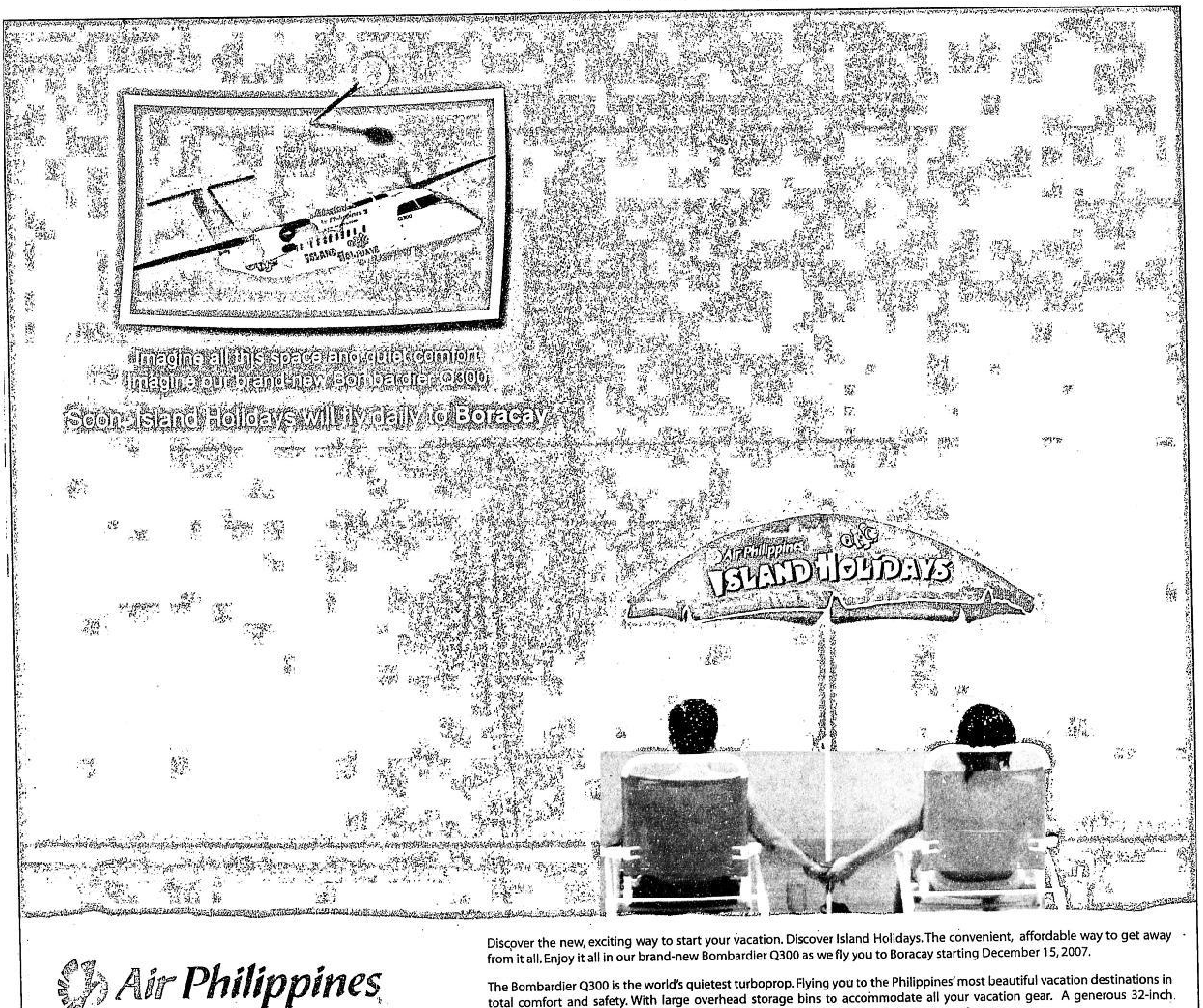
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Battle for Burma

Editorial

THE IMAGE IS PROFOUNDLY DISTURBING. THE picture, published in many newspapers, shows a dead Burmese monk, floating face down in a murky river. His saffron robe has turned pale; it has turned the color of human flesh, drained of blood. Hints of saffron can still be glimpsed, partly hidden by the body of the slain protester. The close-up photograph suggests that the rivers of Burma (Myanmar) have been turned into makeshift graveyards, full of other bodies.

The democratic struggle in Burma has taken a terrible turn for the worse. As though it had traversed a perverse Mobius strip of history, however, the country finds itself back to where it was two decades ago. A democratic resurgence stopped, with massive loss of life.

According to a Burmese military intelligence agent who quit the service out of what he said was a deep revulsion, thousands of monks have already been murdered by the military dictatorship.

That total dwarfs the 10 deaths reluctantly acknowledged by the Burmese junta, or the 200 claimed by dissident groups based abroad. Whatever the total (and we must recognize the possibility that the former agent could be exaggerating his estimate to ease his transition to civilian life), this much is clear: The iron fist of the military dictatorship has come down hard on the protesting monks, and the street demonstrations have come to an end.

This too is clear: The military junta has raided monasteries across the country, barging in in the dead of night, beating dozens of monks and dragging thousands of them away.

In other words, and as delicately phrased by the country's foreign minister before the General Assembly of the United Nations, "normalcy" has been restored in Burma.

If that is the case, then it is time for the world community to reverse the tide of normalization.

The events since the election of 1988, which Aung San Suu Kyi and her pro-democracy party won overwhelmingly, prove beyond a doubt that the military generals in Burma are beyond the reach of international public opinion. Certainly, on some issues, they have heeded international outrage, even at the cost of loss of face. To cite just one instance, they declined the rotating chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nation, in favor of the Philippines, the next in line, because of intra-Asean concerns about their human rights record.

On issues that pertain to the exercise of power within Burma, however, they have been stubborn and unyielding.

Just the same, international pressure must be brought to bear on the junta. Despite the generals' best efforts, Burma is not completely isolated. International support will still filter into the country, and encourage freedom-loving citizens.

Asean must ratchet up the diplomatic pressure on Burma, to hold the generals to account for mass murder and the continued detention of Suu Kyi. The option to expel Burma from Asean must no longer be considered merely possible, but necessary and imminent.

Not least, China and the other countries that sustain the Burmese economy must exert pressure on the generals. The threat of a possible boycott of next year's Beijing Olympics might force China to reconsider its studied neutrality on the Burma issue. How many more monks must die before China will realize that not only is Burma a threat to regional security, but the generals themselves are a threat to the Burmese people and China's great-power pretensions?

Dying tongues

Foreign Comment

PERHAPS 7,000 DIFFERENT LANGUAGES ARE LEFT IN THE world but scholars estimate that one dies out every couple of weeks. At that rate, only the words of the major tongues would be left before we know it.

And that's a sadness: Language is what gives depth, breadth and color to life—and to the culture left behind when we die. However subtle the differences in dialects, however great the differences in language, loss of one leaves the world that much bleaker. We wish the defenders of dying tongues well with their difficult task.

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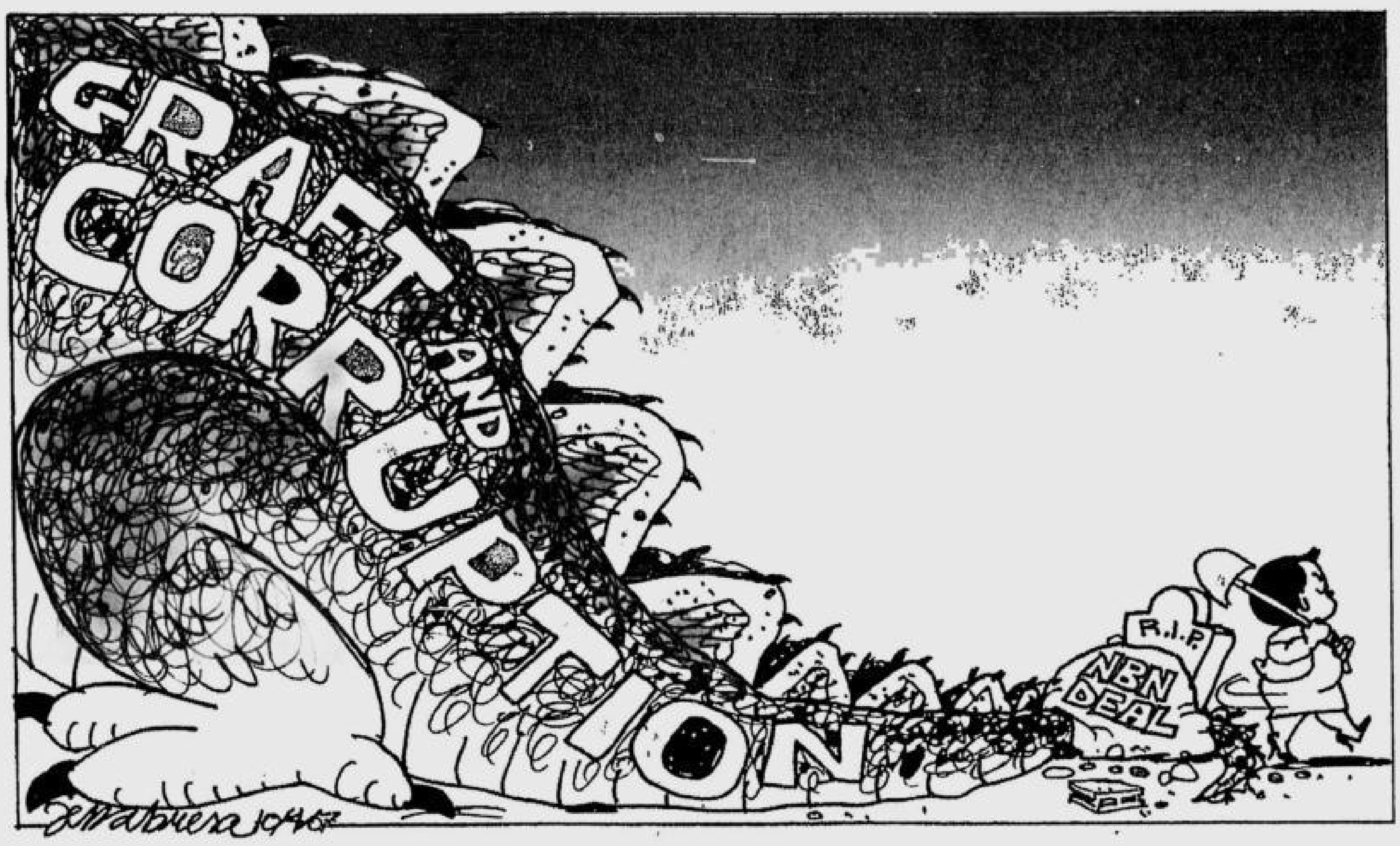

Standing on one's head

Viewpoint

Juan L. Mercado

TO SEE REALITY, STAND ON YOUR HEAD, Gilbert Keith Chesterton suggested.

That's sound counsel for this country where crooks are wedged into top positions and citizens are peons. And as Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno demonstrated, politically wired convicts can duck jail terms.

Shortly after becoming the first president to be convicted for plunder, Joseph Estrada was visited by Puno, who dangled a Malacañang pardon. Erap hadn't even threshed out options with his lawyers: going to a Muntinlupa cell; seeking reconsideration or a Supreme Court appeal. But Puno chortled: "Christmas celebrations at the Estradas are always enjoyable."

Puno's Christmas Days are irrelevant. More basic are the laws on plunder and pardon. And what does the bully pulpit of the presidency teach by fawning abdication, to convicts, of the setting of conditions for liberty? "Shall I wear out my belly groveling in the dust?" Cyrano de Bergerac asked. "No, thank you."

"No, thank you," Estrada told the Palace. Instead, he asked the Sandiganbayan to reconsider its verdict. Erap insists that, like Galahad, he's spotless and doesn't need absolution. Is that good law? Obviously, it's sound theology. Even God cannot pardon if there isn't a flicker of remorse.

There's no contrition about what the verdict documents: In November 1999, crony Jaime Dichaves deposited P189 million into the Jose Velarde account. That was the 10 percent commission for P2-billion worth of Belle Corp. stocks bought by the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System on Estrada's order. Velarde and Estrada were one and the same persons, the court found. Funds from Velarde's account paid for the Boracay mansion, etc.

In contrast, Peru seeks justice for abuses by former President Alberto Fujimori, the Fil-American Forum noted. South Korea jailed former Presidents Chun Doo-hwan and Roh Taewoo. "We risk the scorn of other nations if we throw away the vindication won at great cost and effort."

It recalls our waffling with World War II collaborators. Of the 5,000-plus cases filed with the People's Court, only 156 resulted in convictions. Among the 17 prominent individuals tried, only one was convicted.

"The impression was created that there was no difference between patriots and traitors," Ateneo University's John Carroll wrote. "Or that it was not worth the effort to sort them out... [This reflects] a puny common conscience... Not to react to massive crimes is to reduce a people's values to personal preference. There is grave danger that [society] will dissolve."

There'll be no further negotiations with (Estrada) "until his conviction has become final and executory," Puno said Tuesday. "Another three to four years of litigation will not be good for the [former] president... If he wants to proceed on a shorter route, he can accept finality of judgment, request for a pardon, then we'll act accordingly."

The shortcut peddled glosses over righting massive wrongs. Restitution is ignored. It's all about convenience. "It is expedient that one man die to save the nation," Caiaphas, the Pharisee high priest, counseled. Such a mindset is innocent of values. It may make Puno high come Christmas Day with the Estradas. But the message is: Crime pays.

And what does impunity signal for others? Lapu-Lapu City on Mactan Island, Cebu, for example, has two export processing zones. Over 150 firms hire 43,000 workers. Their products account for 9 percent of the country's total exports. The place is water short, lacks sewerage, is choked by traffic and garbage. It lacks urban savvy. Auditors are dunning officials for unliquidated cash advances. The Office of the Ombudsman suspended Mayor Arturo Radaza for splurging during the Asean Summit on what are the world's "costliest street lamps" (P224,000 per unit).

A Mactan Island Chamber of Commerce and Industry survey of business owners goes further: "Fifteen respondents said one of the mayor's assistants demanded money to 'facilitate' release of a license, permit or clearance," the Sun Star Daily reported. "But 12 respondents said the mayor himself allegedly made the demand."

"Sliding scale" kickbacks saw 13 of 28 respondents asked P50,000 to P2 million for the issuance of permits or licenses. Five respondents were clipped for P5 million or more. At least 18 were bugged for "a percentage of the project cost, or both, to grease releases."

Led by MCCI president Efrain Pelaez Jr., fed-up businessmen asked the leeches to back off. After the MCCI request for information on contracts were ignored, Pelaez filed charges for a P23-million purchase by City Hall of personal computers, priced at P49,500, by a hole-in-the-wall Klein Enterprises. The actual cost is less than half. He asked the Bureau of Internal Revenue to do lifestyle checks on 18 local officials.

The Catholic Church-based organization Dilaab backed the business leaders. Citizens demand accountability, Fr. Carmelo Diola said. "Far too long, people victimized by corruption either remained silent, murmured in private or danced with the system."

The reactions of Radaza and his associates have been knee-jerk. His office just "discovered" that Pelaez didn't settle P5,409,838 in business and realty taxes with the city government. He'd order City Hall to padlock Pelaez firms.

Cut the crap and answer the charges, GMA's Bobby Nalzaro and Cebu Daily News' Ricky Pocka, among others, wrote. That may require Radaza and company to stand on their heads.

* * *

E-mail: juanlmercado@gmail.com

Insufferable

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

SOMEONE SENT ME A TEXT MESSAGE RECENTLY that was meant to be a joke. Looking at the Senate hearing last week, he said, he wondered why we call our public officials "Honorable."

What can I say? "Nobles" were also how the monarchies of Europe called their aristocrats, and that was the last thing they were. Pacific is also how we call the Pacific Ocean, and that is the last thing it is. "Intelligence" is also how we call military information, and that is the last thing it possesses. "Honorable" in reference to our public officials belongs to that category.

But I can sympathize with my text sender's dismay. Truly, you wonder what has happened to honor in this country. Other countries have problems with corruption, too, other countries have public officials accused of corruption, too, but you do not see the same levels of shamelessness. They say Asians, more than any other people on earth, are especially sensitive, given to saving face, and consider being shamed or disgraced the ultimate misfortune, enough in some cultures for someone to take his own life. Well, not Filipinos. Not today anyway.

By itself, the conduct shown by Benjamin Abalos, who thought nothing of being accused by the former Neda chief of trying to bribe him; Romulo Neri, who, along with his boss, GMA, thought nothing of the bribe; the Three Stooges—Juan Ponce Enrile, Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Joker Arroyo—who thought nothing of the proceedings they kept asking when they would end so that they could attend to "more important legislative matters" (like legalizing theft), is enough to make you cringe. In comparison to how things are in other Asian countries (Japan was recently hit by a string of resignations, not least by its prime minister, over corruption scandals, and it wasn't too long ago that Thailand's own prime minister resigned also over a corruption scandal), it's enough to make you say "Laotian" when you are asked your nationality abroad.

It wasn't always so. I still remember how it was before martial law when public officials would bristle at being called or depicted in editorial cartoons as *buayas* or crocodiles (a horrendous insult to crocodiles who are not known to gorge themselves past satiation) and defend themselves angrily from the charge. I remembered that our magazine then, Asia-Philippines Leader, once ran a spoof issue and ended up getting a couple of libel suits from public officials, provoking our editor to sigh that unhappily our public officials are onion-skinned. A sublime irony in light of how history would unfold. Unhappily, today, they are not.

Martial law, of course, had much to do with spawning the culture of shamelessness among public officials. But the current regime has brought it to a stunning culmination. The culture radiates and draws sustenance from the head of state itself. Nowhere else in Asia do you have a head of state that has lied directly to the public about her political plans, that has been heard by everyone plotting with a Comelec commissioner to win by one million votes over her nearest rival, that is married to someone named Jose Pidal, that has made her country the most corrupt in Asia, according to a well-known international organization, that is widely believed to have been the ultimate beneficiary of the ZTE deal, that has the lowest rating of any Filipino president or any Asian head of state, except the members of the Burmese junta and maybe not even so, but who is still there. Indeed, who is not just still there but looks nowhere near to leaving in the next 10 years.

You have a head of state like that, the entire state will follow.

If there's anything to be gleaned from this, it is simply that at the end of the day, what stops, or curbs, corruption really are not laws or congressional investigations about official shenanigans. What stops, or curbs, corruption is the capacity of public officials to be shamed or, where that fails, the capacity of the public to make life hell for them.

Japan, Korea, Thailand and other countries that hold honor as preciously as, if not more so than, gems, are enviable for the first. Recently, I heard a Japanese analyst lamenting on CNN how her country was being crippled by the resignations, and how Japan's public officials were driving honor to insane lengths. It is an affliction devoutly to be envied by us. If that were only a contagious disease, we should ship off our officials to Tokyo wholesale.

But more than the capacity of public officials to be shamed, there is the capacity of the public to shame them, or failing that, make them social pariahs or lepers. What drives many Japanese and Korean officials to suicide is not just a sense that they have failed themselves and their families and duty bids them do the honorable thing. It is also the certainty that their crimes have made their children objects of scorn in their communities, and nothing but their lives will spare them ridicule and humiliation all their lives.

But there's the very big rub. What happens when you have a situation where public officials are no longer shamed by publicly being shown to be liars and thieves, and the public no longer particularly cares that they are, which is what is happening to us today? The one thing that was missing from the Senate hearing that was there during Erap's impeachment trial was public uproar, a universal sense of violation that explodes and expresses itself in marches and watchful vigils. The question is not just: What in God's name has happened to our public officials? The question is: What in God's name has happened to us?

The question is not just: Why do we call our public officials "Honorable"? The question is: Why do we call ourselves sufferable?

Barangay, SK elections should be postponed

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTAtives, almost to a man, have pleaded with the Senate to agree to postpone the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections because the Commission on Elections is not ready to conduct them now. The congressmen also argue that postponing the elections and synchronizing them with the ARMM elections in 2008 would save the government billions of pesos, and enable the poll body to computerize voting and counting.

The House stand is supported by the various local government units, on whom, after all, a big part of the burden of preparation and expenses would fall. But the biggest argument for postponement is the sudden vacuum left in the Comelec by the resignation of Chair Benjamin Abalos. The senators ought to listen to the House members and local officials. I'm happy to note that Senate President Manny Villar has said he's open to a dialogue on this issue.

* * *

Speaking of the chief, I wrote earlier about his sense of timing in business. Seeing the workings of the housing industry up close while engaged in his sand-and-gravel delivery business in the 1970s, he correctly figured that the low-income Filipinos were ready for low-cost house-and-lot packages, and he got into the business. After 10 years, he saw the demand for medium-priced houses by the emerging middle class, the OFWs, and his company adjusted its target. In the late 1990s, he saw that the professionals among the OFWs wanted higher-end homes and condominiums to retire in, and he plunged into it. Villar pointed out in our radio interview that he learned all about entrepreneurship while selling shrimps and fish in Divisoria with his mother Curita. ("I was the original 'Mr. Palengke,' " he said.) But he said he also learned vital lessons from the housing industry. All these later helped him craft various economic and social reform laws, particularly for small and medium enterprises.

* * *

Star columnist Jarius Bondoc says my Tuesday column "sounded like she's driving a wedge between Romy (Neri) and me." But he doesn't need help from me on this; he's doing well on his own. In last week's marathon Senate hearing, a senator asked him what Neri had told him during their conversation in April and he replied that he'd have to seek the CHEd chair's permission first to reveal it. The senator then asked Neri if he was giving that permission and he flatly refused. Bondoc, however, went ahead and disclosed the contents of that conversation with Neri in his column. In my opinion, our colleague breached confidentiality there, which is unfair and unjust to the guy who was supposed to have unburdened himself to a friend under very different circumstances six months ago. But as I said, journalists think differently from one another.

Jarius is right, though, in one point: I have always held that bringing corruption cases to the courts is far better than exposing them in the political circus that's Congress, where witnesses have to stand the insufferable arrogance of lawmakers aiming to hog the limelight or twist things according to their own political agenda.

* * *

Ironically, the Senate is now embroiled in the very same issue of breach of confidentiality, after details discussed in its executive session with Neri last week landed on this newspaper's front page. Senators Joker Arroyo and Juan Ponce Enrile decried the leak and demanded an investigation, arguing that it puts executive sessions under a cloud and few will now believe any claim of confidentiality. One cannot escape the ironic parallelism between the two cases here: Neri is being browbeaten by opposition groups to abandon his legal shield of "executive privilege" and spill the beans on GMA, so that she could be impeached. On the other hand, some unnamed senators are being castigated by their colleagues for betraying confidentiality and INQUIRER reporter Juliet Labog-Javellana is now under the gun from the senators to disclose her sources.

* * *

Despite the cacophony of "political noises" around us, what keeps ringing in my ears are the cries of our young people to push the country forward. I can hear, for instance, GO Negosyo chair Joey Concepcion III rallying young Pinoys everywhere to try the exciting field of entrepreneurship and produce more jobs. I'm happy to point out that tomorrow, Friday, at 6 p.m. in Makati City, my daughter Christine will launch a new travel magazine called "TraveLife." It's a proudly all-Pinoy production by a young editorial staff led by editor in chief Liza Ilarde (with my writer-son Buddy as contributing editor) and printed here, but definitely world-class and promising to get better. It saddens me that Christine's launch comes at a politically troubled time for our country, but that's our young people for you: they remain optimistic about the Philippines and stubbornly won't give up on it. TraveLife holds office at Kalaw-Ledesma Bldg., Legaspi Village, Makati City, Tel. 813-8400 and 892-2620.

* * *

Apostolate to save marriages: Retrouvaille Philippines, the international ministry patterned after the program that started in Quebec, Canada in 1977, is dedicated to help heal troubled marriages. It has helped thousands of couples save their relationship and also their families. Couples from as far as Hong Kong and Australia have attended the local Retrouvaille program. Another live-in weekend for married couples with ailing relationships has been scheduled from Friday, Oct. 12, to Sunday Oct. 14, at the Mother of Mercy Spiritual Center, SVD Road, Tagaytay City. Call Fr. Dave Clay at 0918-9020-511 or 525-0308; Ruby Sy at 931-8313 and 0918-9232-973; Nes or Inday at 938-9719 or 0916-4438-346, or Neomi at 681-5746 or 0916-3954-4642. All calls will be held in strictest confidence.

Apo Reef now a 'no-take zone'

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

TODAY IS THE FEAST OF SAINT FRANCIS OF Assisi, patron saint of the environment, and there is great news for Apo Reef, the world's second largest and known as the jewel and pride of Mindoro. The reef is second in size to Australia's Great Barrier Reef.

Oct. 2 marked the total ban on fishing in Apo Reef. This is to ensure that the reef and the residents who live in the area will recover from the effects of overfishing and exploitation for nearly 30 years. No less than the World Wildlife Fund made this announcement.

This decision was not reached overnight. Negotiations went on for years. Now Apo Reef will be open only for tourism. Well, the question now is, where will the fishermen who depend on Apo Reef for their livelihood go next?

According to WWF, one in 10 fishermen is opposed to the park's closure but the local government is installing alternative ways. WWF says giant fish aggregation devices, locally called "*payaw*," have been installed a few kilometers from the coast. Eight have been installed and 10 more will be in place later.

The *payaw* is a crude but effective device. It is composed of a buoy, a counterweight and 10 to 15 coconut fronds. The algae growth on the decomposing fronds attracts herbivores such as surgeonfish and rabbitfish that can draw in larger predators. A single payaw can yield at least 15 kilos of good fish per boat. *Tambakol, tulingan, galunggong* and even yellowfin tuna can be part of the catch.

"There's resistance now because people fear change," Sablayan Mayor Godofreido Mintu told WWF. "But in the long run, they will benefit from this. Tourists will come back. Sablayan will once again be known worldwide. Mark my words, these protesters will thank us in a year's time."

Yes, we will be watching.

My knee-jerk reaction is to take the side of the disadvantaged locals, but if this move promises something better for them and the next generation, it is worth a try. All extractive activities such as fishing, collection and harvesting of any life form will be completely banned from within the park. Ordinance No. 01 was the first law passed by Apo Reef's Protected Area Management Board for 2007 and declares the whole of Apo Reef a "no-take zone" to allow the reef and its residents ample time to recover from years of fishing.

Apo Reef Natural Park is situated 15 nautical miles west of Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro. It is a major component of the earth's coral triangle, spanning a total of 27,469 ha—15,792 ha for the actual reef and 11,677 ha as a protective buffer zone.

Just over 30 years ago, the park was one of the world's premier diving destinations. In the 1980s, when destruction was at its worst, basketloads of fish could still turn up in minutes.

Apo Reef's biodiversity is impressive. It is home to at least 385 species of fish such as the diminutive bicolor blenny (Ecsenius bicolor), the couch-sized napoleon wrasse (Cheilinus undulatus), 190 coral, 26 algae and seven seagrass species. Larger residents and transients include the manta ray (Manta birostris), sperm whale (Physeter macrocephalus) and various types of sea turtle. Sea birds, too, are well represented, with at least 46 migratory and resident species, including the famed nicobar pigeon (Caloenas nicobarica), roosting regularly on Apo's three main islands.

The 1970s ushered in dynamite, cyanide, muro-ami and strobe-fishing to Apo Reef. Former DENR Protected Area assistant superintendent Robert Duquil recalled: "You would hear 25 to 30 dynamite blasts daily." Fishermen from far places trooped to the area.

In the 1980s, the international diving community lost interest and destructive activities went on unabated.

It was in 1994 that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources assessed the remaining coral cover of 33 percent. Presidential Proclamation No. 868 decreed the reef a natural park in 1996. But enforcement was difficult. Zoning was enforced and allowed limited access to the eastern part. But the western area was not spared. Then Mother Nature herself struck back in 1998, with El Niño raising ocean temperatures, a massive bleaching episode and the death of corals.

WWF information officer Gregg Yan says: "Most reefs in the Indo-Pacific host a small population of the coral-eating crown-of-thorns starfish (Acanthaster planci). Unfortunately, Apo is plagued by millions, probably due to a lack of natural predators like the giant triton, napoleon wrasse and harlequin shrimp. Last week, we collected over a thousand. But if their predators aren't protected, the crown-of-thorns will be here to stay."

WWF had a lead role in the passage of the decree through a radio campaign spearheaded by WWF Sablayan project manager John Manul. WWF has been advocating sustainable coastal practices for the Apo Reef Natural Park and Sablayan town since 2003. The nearby Tubbataha Reefs have benefited from such practices. Marine life doubled from 2004 to 2005.

In 2003, another assessment was made on Apo. Yan says coral cover was back to 43 percent. In 2006, it rose to 52 percent. Bigger fish are returning. Yan is thrilled. "A few months back, divers saw a school of over a hundred scalloped hammerhead sharks. Groups of manta and eagle rays have been sighted in bigger concentrations. Giants like the whale shark and sperm whale are seen regularly. This is proof that biodiversity levels are better. Biodiversity is a prime indicator of a reef's resiliency and its ability to deal with future threats."

Nature can't recover fast on its own. Human intervention is key.

* * *

Send feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph

In this corner

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MONOPOLY CHANCE card says? "Go directly to jail. Do not pass Go. Do not collect 200." But as the now ex-chair of the Comelec might ask, "200 what, your honor?" Still his demand for precision wouldn't have helped him either in Monopoly or in the process of impeachment.

So Benjamin Abalos has resigned and chosen a different game: no roll of the political dice, like Monopoly or getting that Chance card. By so doing, he gave the career of his son, Benhur, a new lease on life. The son was spared the political baggage of a father widely expected to be the first impeached and convicted official in our history. Resignation not only spared the father and son tandem, it spared every single official implicated in the ZTE deal.

An impeachment would have authorized the opening of bank accounts; it would have laid wide open a money trail. And other trails, too, the kinds of trails created by testimonial pathways marked out by a parade of officials summoned to a Senate where even the best efforts of administration senators to lawyer for the President and her men would have failed. Just as Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's efforts to pin down Joey de Venecia led to the most public humiliation of Enrile's life.

Enrile called the younger De Venecia into the ring, thinking he had a horseshoe, RA 3019 (Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act), in his glove. He cited, "Section 5. Prohibition on certain relatives. It shall be unlawful for the spouse or for any relative, by consanguinity or affinity, within the third civil degree, of the President of the Philippines, the Vice President of the Philippines, the President of the Senate, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to intervene, directly or indirectly, in any business, transaction, contract or application, with the Government..." To which De Venecia hit back with two horseshoes in his boxing gloves, from the same law: "Provided, That this section shall not apply to any person who, prior to the assumption of office of any of the above officials to whom he is related, has been already dealing with the Government along the same line of business," and, "nor to any transaction, contract or application filed by him the approval of which is not discretionary on the part of the official or officials concerned but depends upon compliance with requisites provided by law, or rules or regulations issued pursuant to law, nor to any act lawfully performed in an official capacity or in the exercise of a profession."

A knocked-out Enrile reportedly had to vent his fury on his hapless staff. He hadn't read the law as closely as his intended target in the hearings—and worse, the law points to the President and her husband's alleged interventions and not the alleged ones of the Speaker and his son.

After Abalos took his fate out of the hands of Congress (with a Speaker who is not inclined to do the Palace favors and a Senate that is still nominally in opposition hands) and entrusted it in the hands of Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez, the President left for China. There, she met with the Chinese president, and informed him that she'd decided "not to continue" the project, as the official version had it.

The game plan was unfolding. With the President being less and less the people's champion and more and more a washed-out has-been on the ropes, she decided to maneuver the other side into throwing the fight.

Her executive secretary then began laying down the predicate for a suspension of the Senate hearings by expressing the hope, in his folksy style, that the Senate should back off from pursuing the ZTE investigation any further.

In team Philippines, as President Fidel Ramos likes to call our country, the coach is the President. And her game play, seems to be along these lines: Just as Pacquiao is prepared to deliver that knockout punch to Morales, Pacquiao's corner rings the bell to end the round. No knockout punch, and Morales gets to sit in his corner and rest. Morales can mumble something about God intervening to let him recover and win the fight.

To make up for being outfoxed, Enrile the Comeback Kid took the cue from the Palace and asked that the ZTE hearings be stopped. Between Enrile calling for the boxing to end altogether, and Joker Arroyo grouchily demanding that allegations of browbeating Neri result in media being put through the wringer, I am reminded of what a great boxing reporter turned politician once said. Referring to two elderly politicos coming out swinging, Arsenio Lacson proclaimed it "the battle of a couple of centuries."

That there is no hearing on the ZTE case today is a case of senators loudly proclaiming, "I could've been a contender!" It's as if Pacquiao's team had the bell ending the round rung, after Morales' coach told them to do so. Meanwhile, the interval between rounds becomes so long, Pacquiao gets to go on a vacation or, in this case, Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano gets to attend the Inter-parliamentary Union meeting in Geneva.

Cayetano claims the action will resume when he and his colleagues go back to work in November. Yet they already had the Palace pugilists on the ropes, but instead of administering the knockout punch, the Senate pugilists end up flat-faced, googly-eyed lapdogs—pugs, not pugilists.

What sort of champs are these? Are they playing in the big leagues for the title belt or in the Special Olympics? We cheer on handicapped people in the Special Olympics because they're doing their best despite handicaps, but no one ever cheers on a professional boxer who lets his coach deprive him of the winning punch, to give the other side a chance to recover.

Time, as they say, is money. As the money trail was heating up, the President scuttled the deal. You can bet she won't fire anyone because the mess was of her own making. The Senate has decided a junket is more precious than continuing its investigation. It rang the bell to end the round, early. This is called throwing the game.

Fat but happy

YOUNG BLOOD

Chinky Dane C. Seraspi

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

DANCING, ACTING, MODELING, BEING SEEN ON TELEVIsion—these are things that I want and things that I have been denied.

I am 19 and all these years, I have always been fat, plump, chubby, overweight or any term meant to politely describe my frame. I was born heavy and I have always been like this. Never was I thin, slender or slim.

As a kid, I had chinky eyes. I wore my hair long, almost reaching my waist. I was cuddly. I was talkative and good at inventing stories. I loved joking around with older people. I giggled a lot. People found me cute and pinched my cheeks and cuddled me.

I was the favorite grandchild of both my paternal and maternal grannies. Even their *kumpares* and *kumares* were very fond of me. They would give me money when they saw me during their visits, because they found me cute.

I was really *bibo*. After I took my vitamins, I would imitate the kids on TV, posing and saying, "I'm strong!" I was like most of those kids: chubby and not ashamed to be on stage and show what they had.

My elders did not tell me to watch my eating habits because I was young then. They said that when I got older, I would become conscious of my looks and control myself. I did not care either; I liked it that way.

Despite being the favorite at home, it was terrible when I went to elementary school. My classmates, especially the boys, called me "*Baboy*." Their parents and *yayas* would ask me, "*Pinabayaan ka sa kusina, ano* (They must have turned you loose in the kitchen, right)?" or "*Ang lusog mo* (How healthy you are)!" They would laugh at me during PE when we were told to do sit-ups and I couldn't even manage the required minimum of 10.

Did they really have to be so cruel to fat kids? It was as if my being fat affected them. Didn't they know that fat girls have feelings, too?

For years, the *bibo* kid in me was gone. My confidence was down. I became shy and insecure.

Let me mention the disadvantages and burdens of being fat in a world where skinny is the fashion, especially among today's generation. First, I can't wear fashionable, trendy clothes since they don't suit my body structure. Second, I sweat more than other people. Third, I feel embarrassed when my clothes are a little tight and people can see how big my gut is. Fourth, I feel embarrassed that my upper arms are so big I can't wear sleeveless clothes. Fifth, I have stretch marks on my thighs, arms, breasts and tummy. Sixth, I stick out in Boracay when all my friends are in bikinis while I am in a one-piece swimsuit and *sarong*. Seventh, guys whisper to me, "I love you," but quickly add, "Don't tell anybody." Eighth, I am a guy's last option as partner. Ninth, people frequently make comments about my weight or rather the excess thereof. Tenth, I would be excited to shop for clothes, only to go home without any shopping bag because nothing fit me well.

Being fat, however, did not always keep me from doing what I wanted. Once during our high school intramurals, I was picked as the muse of our team. There was a competition among the muses. I was asked, "What is the quality that makes you different from the other contestants?" I replied: "The difference is obvious. I am the only one here who is fat, but my having a sense of humor and my ability to laugh at my own peculiarities is what makes me different from them." I was applauded for my answer and I won the contest.

During the cheering competition, I was asked to be the cheerleader. Two guys carried me on their shoulders, and suddenly I was on top of the pyramid. Everybody was surprised, but they loved it. Again, I was given a round of applause.

I could see from the top that our principal enjoyed our performance. I was an achiever despite my physical appearance. So I was not sure whether those who frequently commented on my weight were feeling sorry for me or just jealous.

It was when I went to college that I became conscious of my body. I decided to trim down. I watched the calories I was consuming. While I used to despise vegetables, I started eating them and stopped eating rice. My parents who were also concerned about my weight didn't mind my skipping meals. I started to exercise regularly.

I have lost some pounds, but not enough. I am still fat. So what? I am happy with the way I look. I don't have to feel miserable. I look in the mirror and see that I am fat. So what if I don't have the ideal body weight?

Now, when I eat something delicious and someone teases me about getting fat, I just say, "No way I can get fat, I already am."

It doesn't matter what the rest of the world thinks. How can I feel good about myself when I'm constantly thinking about what other people think? And to the guys: If you can't shout that I'm yours, then forget it!

I have been a fat girl all of my life. And all of my life, I have fantasized about what it would be like to be thin like those girls in the magazines and TV ads. But I love this fat girl. I love myself. I am beautiful, worthy, loving, funny, and, yes, even sexy. If my fairy godmother were to come and cast away the excess pounds, sure I would like it. But that's not going to happen, so I just choose to be happy.

Thanks to the people who accept me for what I am regardless of my outer shell. Because of them, I have gained back the confidence I once lost.

Chinky Dane C. Seraspi is an AB Journalism junior at the University of Santo Tomas.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Beneficiaries of growth

"The economy is getting better only for those with money."

—Construction worker Edwin Manaloto, after the announcement that the country's gross domestic product grew 7.5 percent in the second quarter

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

'Amparo' can't stop violations

SO MUCH NOISE IS BEING SAID ABOUT Mexico's "Writ of Amparo." The website http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/NSAEBB/NSAEBB89/mexhr11.pdf tells us how dismal is the writ's record in preventing human rights violations by the government of Mexico. In fact, human rights violations by Mexican police authorities are just as rampant as—if not more rampant than—the human rights violations in the Philippines.

The question, therefore, is this: If the so-called Writ of Amparo is the mother of all writs, why is Mexico's record of human rights violations worse than ever?

Many Mexicans risk their lives sneaking across the highly guarded US-Mexican border into the United States just to get away from the harsh realities in their own country.

I seriously doubt if the introduction of the Writ of Amparo into the Philippines would be a better reform measure than the creation of the US-type grand jury and trial jury systems which I have suggested for adoption in the Philippines.

Basically, the Writ of Amparo would be good only if it is issued upon the request of a powerful politician against a poor victim. What if it is invoked by a poor civilian against a powerful general and a "presidential" favorite (e.g., retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan) or against a favorite provincial governor of the president like Chavit Singson? If a president would intervene to prevent the issuance of the writ against his or her pets, do you think a regional trial court judge would be brave enough to issue a Writ of Amparo? Most likely, he would have second thoughts because of the respondent's dangerous "tentacles."

I still strongly believe that the best way to prevent human rights violations is to establish a grand jury system (wherein jury members can secretly investigate and indict human rights violators) and a trial jury system to try the accused.

What we need in the seesaw between "the power of the public" and "the power of the republic" is a "check-and-balance fulcrum." We can do this by adopting the grand jury and trial jury systems.

—MARLOWE CAMELLO,
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The President should 'back off' on Burma

IT WAS FLABBERGASTING TO WATCH Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo reminding the military junta of Burma (Myanmar) of the way it is treating political prisoners. She even called for the release of all of Burma's political prisoners. But wait, isn't it a wolf in sheep's clothing talking? In case GMA has forgotten what she did to a number of critics of her administration—many of them have been put behind bars, others have been killed, and to think the country is not under martial law.

GMA even called on the United Nations to intervene. But wait, hadn't somebody from the UN named Philip Alston come to the Philippines to investigate extrajudicial killings in the country and didn't he conclude that the Philippine military is behind most of those killings? GMA didn't listen to him. In fact, her justice secretary even derisively referred to Alston as a "*muchacho.*"

President Arroyo should "back off." The situation in Burma is so serious, it's not right for her to make a joke out of it at this time. She should remove first the big log that's in her eyes before attempting to take away the speck in other people's eyes.

President Arroyo should back off. She does not have the moral stature to interfere in Burma. Let her who has no sin cast the first stone!

The President should back off and let those who have true and genuine hearts for the victims (of oppression, human rights violations, militarization and the like) do the condemning of Burma's military junta. Instead, let her listen to the cries of the mothers who have lost their sons and daughters; of the children who lost their parents; of the siblings who lost their brothers and sisters.

The President should back off. Let those people who are standing on the high moral ground help the people of Burma gain their freedom. The President should instead redirect to herself the call she has made to Burma's military junta.

—GERALD GUTIERREZ, O. Carm.,
gfgutz@gmail.com

Unacceptable behavior

THIS IS IN CONNECTION WITH THE INQUIRer sports news that the UAAP board has banned from the game venue Raffy Dayrit, "who nearly came to blows with league commissioner Ed Cordero" (INQUIRER, 9/28/07), for two years.

I would like to put on record that during the second round of the Ateneo-University of Santo Tomas game, I and several Ateneo fans witnessed a UAAP official and league commissioner Ed Cordero himself challenge Dayrit to a fist fight inside the coliseum while the game was still ongoing. We were seated a few rows behind the UAAP technical committee table. During that game, the Nabro (National Amateur Basketball Referees Organization) referees again began their dubious calls and non-calls, to the point that Ricky Palou stood up, banged the table of Cordero and walked out in disgust. In our frustration, we, including Dayrit, were shouting at the referees to straighten up. (For evidence of the dubious calls, please refer to the photo on the Sports page of the Sept. 28 INQUIRER issue, showing Rico Maierhofer, clearly with both his feet off the floor. Thousands of fans saw the traveling infraction but not one of the three referees saw it.)

Dayrit, I believe, also included Cordero in his passionate verbal tirade, in essence asking him to do something about the officiating. It was at this point that a UAAP official, an assistant of Cordero, stood up, turned toward us, and challenged Dayrit to a fist fight. Cordero soon followed suit and also challenged Dayrit to a fist fight. Dayrit, to his credit, did not respond to their challenge.

Without justifying Dayrit's verbal offense, I and the other Ateneo fans find it unacceptable behavior that a UAAP official, much less a commissioner himself, would challenge a fan to a fist fight in the game venue while the game is going on, no matter the verbal abuse. There is no justification for this. If Dayrit is to be sanctioned, so should Cordero and that other UAAP official.

Nabro continues to make shoddy and dubious calls and non-calls that seem to control the point spread of the games—with seeming impunity. It is the impression of most fans that, despite what measures they have undertaken, Cordero, the UAAP Technical Committee and the UAAP board are powerless to do anything about the officiating.

To the UAAP board: do not ban angry and frustrated fans. Do something about Nabro's questionable officiating, which is the root of the anger and frustration. If the UAAP board cannot do anything about it, it might as well just cancel the remaining games, ban all the fans, spare us the charade and just let the Nabro referees decide the outcome of the tournament.

Make "Honesty through Sports" including officiating a reality.

—RAMON P. PATERNO,
Ateneo HS '65,
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Relative justice

IF A SURVEY WERE TAKEN OF THE PUBLIC opinion on the plan to pardon Joseph Estrada, the convicted plunderer, please count me as among those who strongly oppose any kind of pardon the corrupt Arroyo administration is planning or may be planning.

If the plan pushes through, it will loudly proclaim that in this country there are different standards of justice. Justice for the poor man who is accused means prison, while justice for the rich man who is accused means freedom. Truly, Juan dela Cruz is continuously being screwed "every which way" since the death of President Ramon Magsaysay.

—ROCKY B. DENOGA,
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No need to spill the beans

COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION Chair Romulo Neri no longer needs to spill the beans. He seems to have already admitted that President Macapagal-Arroyo and her husband are sitting on top of the NBN scandal. What a shame and disgrace not only for her and her family, but also for the government and the entire nation. They should be made to suffer the consequences.

How can Neri as an intelligent, honest, deeply religious person cover up all this dirt? He must be having sleepless nights. His integrity and reputation are at stake.

—FRITZ JAHNS,
jahnsfritz@hotmail.com

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'Ineng' keeps dumping rains on RP

TYPHOON "INENG" gathered strength yesterday as it moved away from the country but continued to bring heavy rains and flooding to many areas.

In Central Luzon, excess rainfall brought landslides and forced the opening of dam outlets to prevent disaster.

Landslides destroyed eight houses along the Angat River in Barangay Lumang Bayan in Plaridel town Tuesday, but no one was reported hurt, disaster officials said.

Teresa Viernes, Plaridel municipal social welfare and development officer, said the rains since last week eroded the soil along the river embankment and caused the houses to collapse on Tuesday.

She said the local government is conducting relief operations for the displaced residents.

In Ifugao, rescuers recovered on Monday the body of a farmer who was buried in a landslide at Sitio Upper Pitawan in Barangay O-ong in Hingyon town.

The body of Henry Linglingon, 55, was recovered with the help of two K-9 dogs, soldiers from the Army's 77th Infantry Battalion and militiamen from Banaue and Kiangan towns, both in Ifugao.

Overflowing dam

In Isabela, strong rains prompted Magat Dam officials to slightly open four spillway gates on Wednesday. Saturnino Tenedor, Magat Dam instrumentation section chief, said the dam reservoir reached the 192-meter water level on Oct. 3, a slight reduction from its 192.37-meter high elevation on Oct. 2. The dam's spillage level is 193 meters.

The mayor of Balayan, Batangas on Wednesday sought the assistance of the national government to help them repair of a P5-million seawall which was destroyed by huge waves whipped by a storm surge on Monday night.

Balayan Mayor Manuel Fronda stressed the importance of the immediate repair of the 60-meter seawall in Barangay Baclaran which, he said, serves as the only protective fence for the coastal village from destructive waves.

In an interview, Fronda said he would send a letter to the National Disaster and Coordinating Council (NDCC) to ask for help.

He said since more typhoons were expected to hit the country in the next few months, it was apparent that the repair should be done at once.

He said at least 150 families abandoned their houses as the seawater inundated the village.

He said several houses and fishing boats were also destroyed by the flooding.

Quoting village officials, Fronda said the waves went as high as eight meters and reached residential areas located 40 meters from the shoreline.

Divers and rescue swimmers of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) yesterday continued their search for 14 missing passengers of a cargo vessel that sank off Palawan as "Ineng" approached the country and another typhoon, "Hanna," left.

Lt. SG Armand Balilo, PCG spokesperson, said continuing rains were blocking the rescue effort.

"But rest assured that our search and rescue operations will not cease until we find the missing persons," Balilo said in an interview.

Balilo said MV Mia, owned by GPS Shipping Lines, sank around 4 p.m. last Sept. 29 some 28 nautical miles southwest off Cagayancillo, Palawan.

The cargo vessel was loaded with 800 metric tons of cement from Cebu and was on its way to Brooke's point in Palawan when it sank due to bad weather.

Aside from the cargo vessel, the Coast Guard is also searching for a yacht after Korean national Tae Wook Kang requested for help.

The yacht, named Kingston, left Hong Kong last Sept. 28 and was on its way to Subic with three Filipino crewmen, Balilo said.

He added that the Coast Guard Action Center has been coordinating with the yacht's owner. *Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon, and Villamor Visaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon; Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon; and Margaux Ortiz in Manila*

RESIDENTS of Barangay Wawa, Rosario, Cavite gather bamboo poles washed ashore by huge waves. Several houses were destroyed in the village. Waves as tall as 8 feet also swamped several villages in San Luis, Batangas. Science officials said the waves could have been caused by a storm surge brought by Typhoons Hanna and Ineng crossing each other's paths. EDWIN BACASMAS

Secret talks in KL won't break deadlock with MILF

COTABATO CITY—GOVERNment and Moro rebel negotiators failed to come to terms on the issue of ancestral domain and when to meet again during an unannounced meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Both sides also failed to agree on the final date of the supposed 14th formal talks which have been suspended for more than a year now.

Mohaqher Iqbal, Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) chief negotiator, said the meeting was in a form of question and answer aimed at coming to a "meeting of the minds."

"Sadly, we failed as the thorny issue became even more thorny," Iqbal said in a phone interview.

No date

Members of the government and MILF peace panels held a special meeting in Kuala Lumpur last week to discuss the possible resumption of the formal talks, but got tangled instead on ancestral domain.

It was the second meeting in three months, all aimed at reviving cordiality in the 10-year-old peace process.

Iqbal said there was no date set for the next meeting.

Jun Mantawil, MILF secretariat head, said the government was again offering the expanded autonomy scheme despite President Macapagal-Arroyo's earlier pronouncement that the government recognizes the Bangsamoro's right to self-determination.

MILF rejection

"The MILF rejected it before, it will to the same once presented with the same formula," he said.

While the two panels admitted they failed to agree on the date of the next formal peace talks, they agreed that confidence has been restored.

Also present in the executive meeting were chief government negotiator retired general Rodolfo Garcia and former chief negotiator Silvestre Afable who is now acting as senior adviser.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said the guerrillas appreciate the continuing effort of the Malaysian government, through its designated facilitator of the peace talks, Datuk Othman Bin Abdul Razak, to broker a peace deal between the government and the MILF.

Third party

Peace talks between the government and the MILF started Jan. 7, 1997, but gained momentum only in 2003 with the help of Malaysia as "third party mediator."

The Malaysian-led International Monitoring Team, composed of police and military officers from Malaysia, Brunei, Libya and a rehabilitation expert from Japan, has also been helping oversee the ceasefire since 2003. *Edwin O. Fernandez and Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

Naga City water reserve drying up; crisis seen by group's study

NAGA CITY—THIS CITY'S groundwater reserve is being depleted and a water shortage is looming, according to a study.

The study, prepared by the Care Philippines, World Wildlife Foundation and International Institute for Environment and Development, said the city's groundwater reserve is losing 4,480 cubic meters of water per day.

It warned of a water shortage in 2010 since the rate of consumption was expected to reach 13,532 cu. m. per day.

"Groundwater is Naga City's primary and major source for domestic, industrial and commercial activities. With its growing population and booming economy, data on static water level indicated that the city is already experiencing a decline in groundwater level," the study said.

Alexander D. Nayve, Isarog site coordinator of Care Philippines, said the Metro Naga Water District (MNWD) cannot solve the water shortage by just simply building pump wells.

The MNWD serves this city and its three neighboring towns.

Nayve said building pump wells are not the solution if the groundwater reserve was already depleted.

The study said Naga City could yet replenish its groundwater reserve since it is located downstream of the Yabo Watershed.

The Yabo Watershed supplies 61 percent of Naga City's water needs.

The watershed has three villages inside it—Panicuason and Carolina in Naga City and Palestina in Pili town.

Rainwater easily seeps into the soil of these villages, adding to the groundwater reserve there. *Juan Escandor Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Loss of 4 Seals a big one for Navy execs

ZAMBOANGA CITY—"IT will take us one year to produce Seals," said Commander Renato David, head of the Special Warfare Group (SWAG) battalion of the Philippine Navy.

David was referring to the death Tuesday night of four Navy Seals in a clash with suspected pirates on Langhil Island off Basilan.

He said it would be hard to find replacements for those who died. "If you lose one, four, it's a big loss," he said.

Members of the Naval Special Operations Unit 6 or Navy SWAG Seals (Sea, Air, Land warriors) found it hard to accept that they would suffer casualties despite the precise planning they had made for the raid on Tuesday night.

Rear Admiral Emilio Marayag, Naval Forces Western Mindanao Combined chief, said all those who participated in the raid were "well-equipped with night devices such as night-vision goggles."

He said they first thought that S1GM Jay Soguitan, who was one of the four Navy Seals killed in the clash, was hit in the arm, "but we later discovered that he suffered a bullet wound in the left side of the upper waist."

Soguitan's wife Cely said her husband had told her that the Navy Seals were surprised when the pirates were able to fight back as if they knew the Navy Seals were coming.

The three other slain Navy Seals were Seaman 2nd Quarter Mate Joe Vincent Sistosa of Sampaloc, Manila; Seaman Second Quarter Master Roel Peralta of Kalibo, Aklan; and Fireman First Michael Abrio of Puerto Princesa.

Wounded were Lt. Roderick Cayetano and Seaman Second Engine Man Armando Labrador.

Despite suffering casualties, Marayag said they still considered the mission launched by the Navy Seals and the Special Operations Platoons of the Marine Battalion Landing Team 7 (MBLT7), successful.

He said they were able to "neutralize" the target—Abdulrajak Sadikal, a known pirate and alleged extortionist who operated in the islands of Sibago and Langhil near Hadji Muhamad Ajul town in Basilan.

Town mayor Talib Pawaki had told Marayag that 10 pirates were killed in the encounter that started at around 11 p.m. Monday and ended six hours later.

Marayag said his men died in a "fair fight." *Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

MEMBERS of the Navy Seals view the bodies of their comrades killed in a clash with pirates. JULIE S. ALIPALA/INQUIRER MINDANAO

Panlilio vetoes ordinance on quarry control

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—PAMpanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio on Wednesday vetoed an ordinance regulating the province's multi-million-peso sand industry.

In a letter to Vice Gov. Joseller Guiao and members of the provincial board, Panlilio said the new law was "contrary to public interest."

Bacolor Mayor Romeo Dungca, vice president of the Pampanga Mayors League, which proposed the law, said he expected the provincial board to override the action of Panlilio.

Dungca said the board had unanimously approved it by a vote of 10-0 on Sept. 21.

Guiao said the board had held public hearings. He questioned the governor's interest in the law when the latter's office had not attended the first public hearing and sent only a letter to raise questions in the second hearing.

"It is his prerogative to veto but we will take appropriate actions once we get to know his decision," Guiao said, adding the board would tackle the governor's position in a meeting.

In his letter to the board dated Oct. 1, Panlilio said the ordinance was enacted "without the mandatory public hearings."

He attached the position papers of civil society groups opposed to the ordinance.

Panlilio said the ordinance also violated the provisions of the Local Government Code, especially the collection of administrative fee, which the ordinance abolished. This amounts to P150 per truckload of sand.

The ordinance, he said, also violated the principle on the separation of the executive and legislative functions, mainly the fixing and determination of the fair market value of sand as well as the fixing of rate on fees and charges.

He opposed the provision allowing the representative of the provincial federation of quarry associations to collect payments and issue official receipts, saying that task cannot be given to a private person but only to the provincial treasurer under the guidance of the governor.

The ordinance "practically removes the power and authority of the governor to process, monitor and implement the law regarding quarry as it sought to transfer the power to issue permits indirectly to the mayors, making the permits issued and granted by the governor useless," he said.

Permits, he said, are issued exclusively by the governor for 5 hectares and below and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau for 5 hectares and more.

"I did not approve the ordinance because the public is ill-served by the legislation," he said.

INQUIRER Southern Luzon
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Bureau Chief

MT. ISAROG Guardians on site visit. The volunteer group protects the mountain from illegal loggers, treasure hunters, poachers and slash-and-burn farmers. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Village stewards protect Mt. Isarog

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Ocampo, Camarines Sur

THOUGH NO LONGER OFFICIALLY DEPUTIZED AS FOREST guards, members of a community-based group have been braving the odds and danger in checking illegal activities at Bicol's highest peak, the Mt. Isarog National Park, in Camarines Sur.

The Mt. Isarog Guardians (MIG), numbering 184 and coming from 23 villages surrounding Bicol's highest peak, are wielding only the power of citizen's arrest in protecting the mountain's forest and natural resources.

Tereso C. Gonzales, MIG team leader, says the members have relied on guts and intuition in launching operations against illegal loggers, treasure hunters, wildlife poachers and slash-and-burn farmers encroaching on the protected area.

Isarog, a 1,966-meter inactive volcano with a 1,000-meter deep crater, is endowed with 143 bird species and 3,000 plant subgroups, of which 1,300 are still unidentified, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau.

Also called "Vulcan de Agua," Isarog has 16 major rivers that provide potable water to 15 of the 35 towns of Camarines Sur and irrigate some 67,400 hectares of rice lands at its foot.

It is not known for any mineral deposits, except for sulfur in Hiwacloy, Goa, Camarines Sur.

Twenty-three villages surround its slopes, home to 5,375 families or 29,819 persons belonging to the Tabagnon and Cimaron Agta tribes, Bicolanos, Visayans and Ilocanos. But some 1,500 people live inside the national park, a PAWB baseline survey in May-June 1999 revealed.

Originally organized under a conservation program of Care Philippines in early 2000, the MIG has been patrolling the park for the past four years. It has sustained the participation of communities in forest resource protection.

Gonzales rues the move by the DENR to suspend the issuance of deputation order to the MIG.

For two years now, the group has been stripped of authority to apprehend persons conducting illegal activities inside the park but, he said, the City Environment Office of Naga advised them to assert their duty of citizen's arrest under the law to continuously safeguard the protected resources.

Deputation

Reynulfo Juan, acting regional director of the DENR, confirms the suspension of the MIG's deputation and that the environment secretary had removed the authority from the regional directors to deputize forest guards.

Juan explains that his office is now working for the restoration of the deputation of volunteers and pledged within the year that the MIG members are to regain their authority to help enforce environmental laws.

The MIG works as a team and maintains close links with members in all villages in Isarog, in coordination with local officials.

All volunteers have undergone environmental law enforcement and ecology training-seminars since 2002. They have been trained by government and nongovernment agencies, including the Caceres Social Action Center Foundation Inc. (Casafi), Care Philippines, and the National Integrated Protected Areas Program (Nipap).

Awareness

Francisco M. Barbosa, village chief of Ginaban, says the intervention of the Casafi through the Mt. Isarog Area Development Program (MIADP) has increased environmental awareness among the villagers.

Robert Dy, program coordinator, says the effort is the response of the Archdiocese of Caceres to the growing threat of complex issues to the overall environmental state of the Mt. Isarog National Park.

Aside from mobilizing the MIGs for forest protection, the program employs strategies that address some of the educational, health, economic, advocacy and organizational needs of the communities, he says.

"Before, the people in the community just simply ignored and cared less about illegal activities in the protected area. Now that many orientation seminars have already been conducted here, people never fail to report illegal activities in the forest," Barbosa says in the vernacular.

He estimates that 30 percent of the 480-ha village of Ginaban is within the 10,112-ha protected area of the national park.

The village chief acknowledges the initiatives of the MIG in dramatically reducing park encroachment and other illegal activities.

Ramon G. Eder Jr., another MIG patrolling the village of Panicuason in Naga, says the group has received threats many times but its members have kept their faith and courage to pursue their roles as stewards of Isarog.

Roberto Pacis, a MIG of Ginaban, says his group usually asks MIGs in adjoining villages for help in a show of force against encroachers. With diplomacy and encouraging words, he says, the poachers, loggers and treasure hunters peacefully abandon their plan.

When the National Integrated Protected Areas Systems (Nipas) Act of 1992 was enforced, Isarog was included among the eight priority areas in the country listed for the establishment of protected areas.

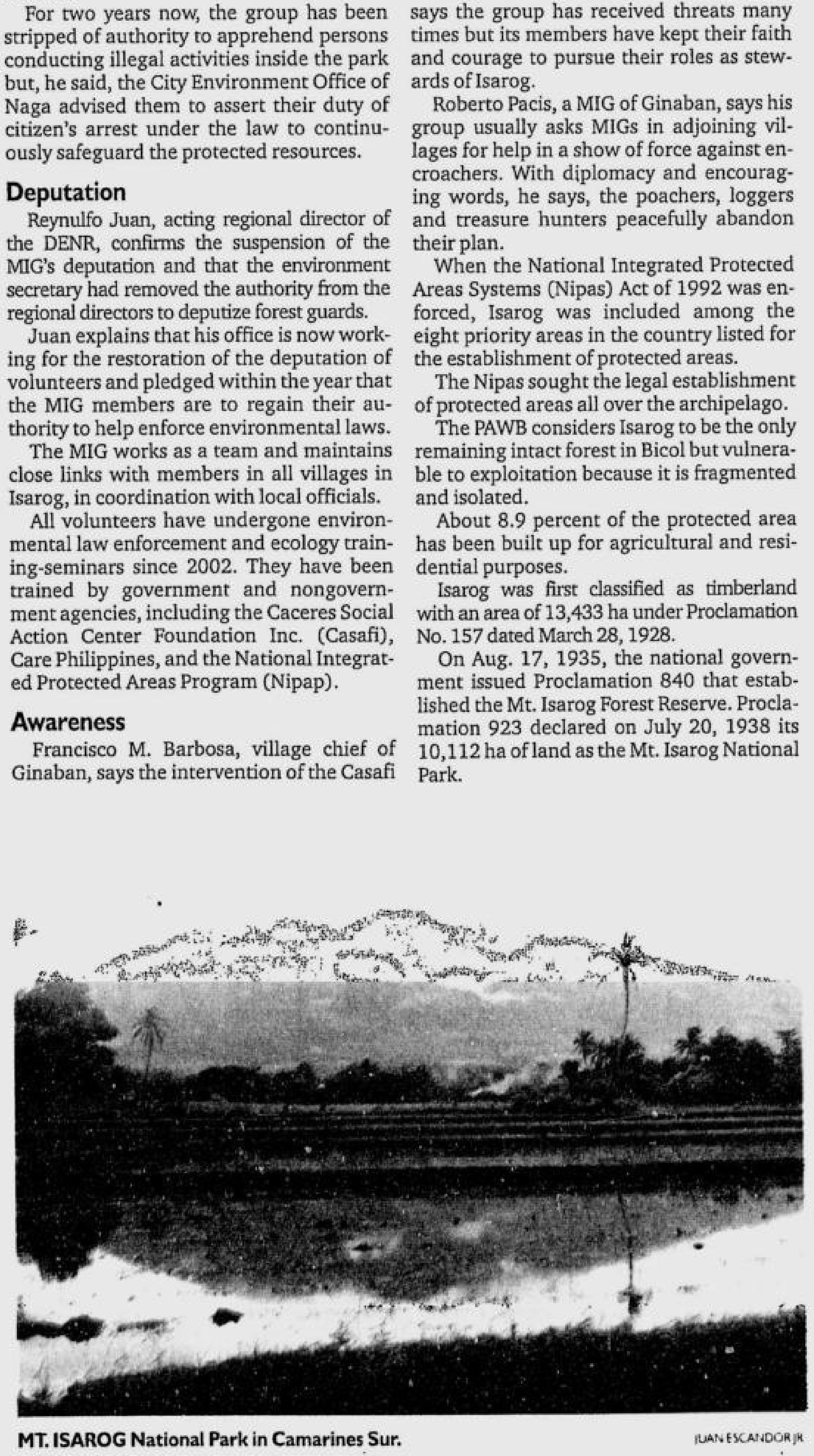
The Nipas sought the legal establishment of protected areas all over the archipelago.

The PAWB considers Isarog to be the only remaining intact forest in Bicol but vulnerable to exploitation because it is fragmented and isolated.

About 8.9 percent of the protected area has been built up for agricultural and residential purposes.

Isarog was first classified as timberland with an area of 13,433 ha under Proclamation No. 157 dated March 28, 1928.

On Aug. 17, 1935, the national government issued Proclamation 840 that established the Mt. Isarog Forest Reserve. Proclamation 923 declared on July 20, 1938 its 10,112 ha of land as the Mt. Isarog National Park.



MT. ISAROG National Park in Camarines Sur. JUAN ESCANDOR JR.

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NBN deal probe in limbo; tycoon meddling?

From page A1

ate goes on a break."

Madrigal said she received information that "the blue ribbon committee agreed to suspend indefinitely the conduct of the hearings upon the request of a powerful businessman and through the intervention of the Senate President himself." *(Related story on Page A1.)*

Madrigal said she came out with this information "rather than engage in political biting" to ask Cayetano "to explain the sudden impasse."

At a press conference, Cayetano denied that he suspended the hearings.

Questions exhausted

Cayetano claimed that the Senate had "exhausted all questions" in the past hearings and that the hearings had become long-winded.

But asked how soon the public would see another hearing, Cayetano could not give a specific date.

Aside from admitting that he knew as early as last week that there would be no hearings this week, Cayetano said there would also be no hearings for the next 10 to 14 days after the Senate goes into recess and the technical working group (TWG) takes over the investigation.

Cayetano said that it would still depend on the TWG whether there would be a need for a hearing during the break.

Villar: Probe to continue

But Senate President Manuel Villar and heads of key committees are determined to see the investigation through.

"I will still push for a closure on this controversy. The investigation should be concluded with legislation that will make transactions of this nature transparent and open for public scrutiny," Villar said.

But some senators said President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to cancel the NBN deal with China's ZTE Corp. had rendered the inquiry moot.

Ms Arroyo, who met Chinese President Hu Jintao in Shanghai on Tuesday, said he had expressed understanding after she explained that the deal had to be canceled.

Culprits who nearly got away

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan insisted on continuing the inquiry into the deal, which has been marred by allegations of overpricing and tainted with bribery offers.

"We have succeeded in preventing what appeared to be another billion-peso white elephant in the making. Still we need to shed light on who the real culprits are, who nearly got away with this anomalous transaction," Pangilinan said.

He said there was a need for the public to know what Ms Arroyo did, if any, when she was informed of the P200-million bribe offered early this year to Romulo Neri, then director general of the National Economic and Development Authority.

But it doesn't seem likely that Malacañang will allow its officials, including Neri, to appear again at the Senate inquiry now that the ZTE deal has been scrapped.

Sidestepped

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said he personally did not see why the Senate should continue its inquiry.

Noting what his lawyer-friends had told him, Ermita said the purpose of the hearing had been "sidestepped" by the cancellation of the ZTE deal and by the resignation of Benjamin Abalos Jr. as chair of the Commission on Elections.

Abalos has been accused of brokering the deal in exchange for commissions.

"If the contract is canceled, then I don't see what else … would the committee on trade wish to look into," Ermita said.

GMA's political instinct

Ermita said the President's "political instinct" could have driven her to decide to scrap the ZTE deal.

House Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., who introduced the resolution calling for an inquiry into the NBN deal, believed Ms Arroyo canceled the contract to deflect public dissatisfaction and to persuade the Senate to end its probe.

"There is no closure on questionable deals until the questions are answered and the truth is out," Pimentel said.

It was during the Senate hearings on the deal that Abalos, then Comelec chair, was accused of offering bribes to Neri and Jose "Joey" de Venecia III.

De Venecia said Abalos had offered him $10 million so his company would withdraw its unsolicited proposal to undertake the NBN project.

Abalos has denied Neri and De Venecia's allegations.

He resigned his Comelec post on Monday in the wake of an impeachment complaint filed against him.

There were also allegations that Ms Arroyo's husband tried to bully De Venecia to "back off" from the project.

Tighten procurement law

One of the cochairs of the inquiry, Sen. Manuel Roxas II, said the inquiry would also zero in on ways to tighten the procurement law so that all government projects have to go through public bidding and check and balance.

"This project should never have been started nor approved in the first place," said Roxas, trade and commerce committee chair.

"We need to tighten the approval process for foreign-aided and -funded projects to protect the people's money, and prevent this politico-diplomatic fiasco from ever happening again," Roxas said.

Overtaken by events

Senators Juan Ponce Enrile and Joker Arroyo, who belong to the administration bloc, said the cancellation of the ZTE contract rendered the Senate inquiry "moot."

Enrile said the Senate could let public prosecutors handle the investigation of the bribery and corruption charges.

Senator Arroyo said the investigation had been overtaken by events. "I think we should wrap this up already so the committee report can be prepared … I've lost interest in this because it's been overtaken by events," he said.

But Arroyo said he would pursue his ethics complaints against certain senators who leaked the details of the Sept. 26 closed-door executive session to the Inquirer. [The Inquirer report did not say that its four sources were senators. There were other people inside the room where the senators held their executive session on Sept. 27.]

Multi-sectoral groups

Outside the Senate, lawyer Harry Roque and members of multi-sectoral groups vowed to pursue charges against government officials whom they believe must be held culpable for violations of the code of conduct for public servants and for plunder despite the shelving of the NBN deal.

"This is far from having a closure," Roque told the Inquirer.

He said there were violations committed even if the deal had been shelved. *With reports from Christian V. Esguerra and Jeannette I. Andrade*

$460-M Cyber Education deal not scrapped, says Favila

From page A1

Favila denied rumors that a company owned by the son of Chinese President Hu Jintao was involved in the $460-M cyber education project.

"Rumors? I don't think so. When it comes to the Chinese leadership, we know how careful they are. They will not tolerate this kind of practice," Favila said.

Supplier's credit

He, however, said the $329-million loan facility from the Chinese government which the Philippines was going to use for the broadband project through China Eximbank, is still available.

"That remains to be a supplier's credit made available to the Philippine government for other projects that the Philippine government wishes to undertake," he said.

Favila told reporters that the President had not terminated the other agreements signed in Haikoo, Hainan, China, on April 21.

"The broadband project will be discontinued. The rest will be suspended," he said.

Asked if he was referring to the other projects signed with China, Favila said "the rest. I can't remember what the other projects are."

Other deals signed five months ago were:

- A $4.64-million contract to export mango pulp to China. It was signed by Antonio Tui, Mabuhay Enterprises chief executive officer, and Jianhua Li, president of the Chinese firm Guangzhou Dong Li.
- A $30-million deal to ship tapioca to China for five years. It was signed by Fernando Martinez, president of Eastern Petroleum, and Pan Rui Jian, chair of the Chinese firm Mingyang Import and Export Trade Co. Ltd.
- A $56.18-million loan from the Chinese government for the upgrade and repair of the Angat Dam. It was signed by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System for the Philippine government, and China International Water and Electric Corp. for the Chinese government.

The documents for all these deals were allegedly stolen along with the copies of the NBN and CEP contracts.

Why Cyber Ed not axed

Favila clarified that $460-million CEP could not be scrapped because "what was signed five months ago, along with the National Broadband Network (NBN) deal was only a memorandum of agreement between the Department of Education and University of Tsing Hua.

"That's an MOA (on the CEP). There's nothing yet beyond that. And according to Education Secretary Jesli Lapus, they will have it suspended," he said.

On Sept. 22, the implementation of both the NBN and CEP projects was suspended by Ms Arroyo.

She blamed "political noise" for her decision.

Favila said Ms Arroyo gave no reason for observing a status quo on the other projects.

In Manila, Lapus said the Department of Education (DepEd) would not recommend the lifting of the suspension order on CEP.

Lapus said he would "leave it to the better judgment of President Macapagal-Arroyo and the National Economic and Development Authority."

Instead, the department "will continue with its various (information technology) initiatives," Lapus told the Inquirer yesterday.

He said the DepEd would continue to use IT to reach out to public schools in the remotest areas and train teachers and education supervisors to create and deliver content via cyberspace.

Lapus, however, lamented that the IT projects "will only be on pilot scales."

Education system deprived

"The entire education system will still be deprived," he noted.

This year, the DepEd is spending P280 million on its computerization program. Government funding for IT-related projects totaled P370 million in 2005 and 2006.

Lapus has expressed dismay over the suspension of the CEP, but also said he was optimistic it would soon be back on track.

The Neda, which evaluates government projects, earlier approved the CEP because it would be beneficial to teachers and students, he pointed out.

The CEP, to be undertaken in cooperation with a Chinese firm, aims to bridge the learning gap between urban and rural schools by using satellite technology to beam televised lectures to students and teachers in far-flung areas.

The satellite-based distance learning program is capable of broadcasting lectures by the best teachers from DepEd model schools to other public schools nationwide.

The program, which targets a total of 37,794 public schools in the next three years with an annual coverage of 13.6 million students, is the "best thing to happen to Philippine education," according to Lapus.

Embarrassing

Favila made the clarification a day after Ms Arroyo informed President Hu Jintao during a closed-door bilateral meeting in Shanghai that she had decided to discontinue the NBN project. Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Ms Arroyo took it upon herself to explain "to the Chinese president her difficult decision."

"And the President counted on the good relationship between the two countries," said Bunye, who was with Ms Arroyo during the meeting.

In an interview with reporters, Bunye said "when you cannot continue again, *tapos ka na* (it is finished)."

Favila explained that Ms Arroyo scrapped the whole NBN project "because of the controversy and the refusal of … some sectors to understand what the project was all about."

"There's no end to all these criticisms to this project no matter how the DOTC explains it … so might as well (end it)," Favila said.

"So just to put it to rest (she discontinued it). I guess it's really embarrassing to the Chinese government and the President (GMA) just decided to discontinue it."

Razon breaks silence, says too busy to be part of NBN-ZTE project

From page A1

broke his silence and rebutted allegations linking him to the $329-million ZTE Corp. National Broadband Network (NBN) deal.

Razon, 47, also dismissed claims he had threatened then Director General Romulo Neri of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) for supporting the opening of a rival container port in Manila.

Too busy

In a statement sent to the Inquirer nearly a week after his name cropped up in the ZTE probe, Razon said he was too busy to be involved in the ZTE deal.

"In a year, I spend almost 200 days out of the country. How could I possibly find time to participate in these political issues? We operate in 10 countries aside from the Philippines so how can my being involved in politics help me in these 10 countries? It just doesn't make sense!"

Aside from the Philippines, ICTSI operates in China, Brazil, Poland, Madagascar, Japan, Indonesia, Syria, Ecuador, Colombia and Georgia.

Senators Jamby Madrigal and Rodolfo Biazon have called on the brash, jet-setting ports king to appear before the Senate committees jointly investigating the NBN deal.

But, Senate blue ribbon committee chair Alan Peter Cayetano said that there was no need to invite Razon because he was implicated by Neri on a different matter, port liberalization, which was not covered by the ZTE probe.

"His name has been bandied in media (as being part of the ZTE deal), and should it be proven that he has knowledge of ZTE, all witnesses should be called," Madrigal said.

Biazon said Razon should explain in the same Senate forum where Neri had claimed that Razon had accosted him and told him "you will allow Harbour Centre to operate over my dead body."

Neri had planned to allow Harbour Centre to enter the twenty-foot equivalent unit (TEU) container market dominated by ICTSI.

Does Razon exert influence?

"I think this is an issue that must be given clarification if this is true. In fairness to Mr. Razon, an inquiry could free him from being allegedly involved in the issue," Biazon said.

Since Neri confirmed the confrontation in a Senate probe, Biazon said Razon should also do the same.

Biazon said that Neri's charges against Razon was as serious as his claim of being bribed by then Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos because of his far-reaching implications on government policy setting.

"The question is: Does Mr. Razon exert some influence upon the national leaders of this country? That question should be given answers," Biazon said.

On questions whether some senators were reluctant to invite him, Biazon said:

"There are reports going around that indeed Mr. Razon had been the treasurer in a way of Team Unity during the campaign period. I don't know if that is material, but since there is an intimation from Mr. Neri that there has been a threat to his life coming from that direction we have to examine why this is a threat."

A critic not enemy of Neri

Razon claimed he was a "critic, not an enemy of Neri."

Razon said that while he disagreed with Neri on port liberalization (he called it Neri's meddling in port policies), "Neri now has an axe to grind against me, and is even going as far as to drag my name into the ZTE scandal."

"The ZTE scandal is an issue involving people who have no business involving themselves in government contracts such as government officials and children of government officials. I would never get involved in such an unseemly affair," said Razon.

Contrary to Neri's claim that the confrontation was made at the Speaker's home early this year, Razon said he approached Neri during a dinner almost two years ago to explain the situation of ICTSI.

"Neri was dismissive. There was no shouting of invectives whatsoever or even raising of voices. It was a function for a head of state, and proper decorum was called for. And the president of Equatorial Guinea was standing close by when this happened. Neri has blown it out of all proportion."

Razon said there was no household help to witness the alleged shouting incident and that this was his only encounter with Neri.

Nothing to do with transfer

Razon denied that he had a hand in Neri's transfer from the Neda to the Commission on Higher Education. "I had absolutely nothing to do with that. I am only a businessman after all."

Razon maintained that "ICTSI is all for the liberalization of the Philippine ports sector, but it has to be on a level playing field for all the players and that commitments have to be honored."

After explaining the Neri incident, Razon trained his guns on the young De Venecia "who seems to be enjoying his newfound fame, and is extending himself into matters he has no knowledge of whatsoever."

"In his desire to get back at me for our rejection of his opinion, he will even try to drag me into an issue that I have nothing to do with," Razon said.

On Jose de Venecia III's claims that he engaged in a shouting match with his father, House Speaker Jose de Venecia, in their house, Razon said: "The Speaker is a friend of mine, and we have had many animated conversations, but I have never berated him. At the very least, the Speaker should have the decency to clarify the statements made by his son."

Erap cries foul over 'Pinoy Times' advertisement

From page A1

that had hounded the then President, with a headline saying how easy it was to forget his "sins" *("Mga atraso ni Erap kay bilis naman nating makalimot").*

More of the same

But yesterday's ad is not the last of it, according to Eugenia D. Apostol, who chairs the foundation's board of trustees.

"The ad will come out three or four more times," Apostol, the founding chair of the Inquirer and a recipient of the Ramon Magsaysay Award for journalism, told the Inquirer when reached on the phone for comment.

She added that a collection of all the old issues of Pinoy Times Special Edition would soon hit the stands for P200 each.

Estrada said the ad, which he described as a "new and more insidious demolition job" against him, was published to distract public attention from the fresh political storm brought by the controversial $329-million National Broadband Network deal with China's ZTE Corp.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, whose husband was implicated in the deal, has scrapped the agreement that was reportedly tainted by lobbying and bribery attempts.

"Wala na ba silang magamit na panakip-butas?" Estrada said. "It would be so much easier if those in power simply addressed the people's concerns on these scandals instead of looking for convenient scapegoats every time they run into trouble."

Free country

Estrada's spokesperson, Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez, said the publication of the ad was equivalent to "kicking a man [who is] at the lowest point of his life."

But Apostol said: "This is a free country. He (Estrada) is welcome to say what he likes."

She said the people had to be reminded of Estrada's offenses.

"Now, everybody wants him to be reprieved."

Malacañang has initiated talks with Estrada on a possible presidential pardon.

The ousted President was at first vehemently opposed to the idea because, he said, it meant an admission of guilt.

He gradually warmed to it and then rejected it again, saying there would be no more discussion of the matter until his conviction for plunder became final and executory.

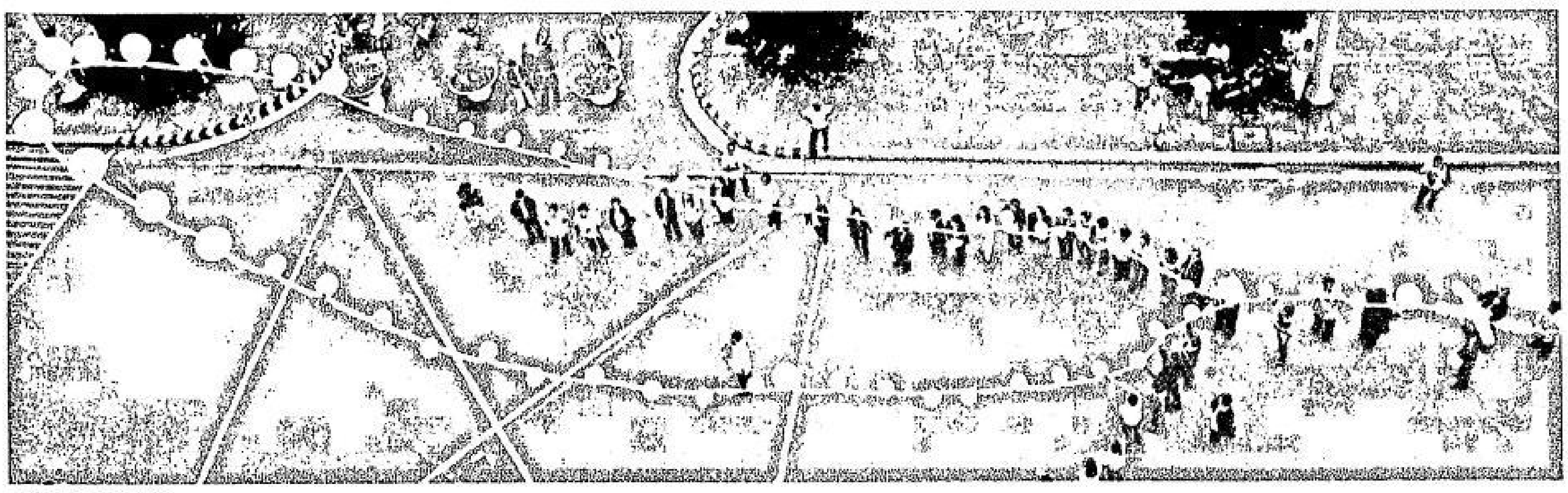
His lawyers filed a motion for reconsideration with the anti-graft court last week.

'Hot media copy'

Estrada remains in detention at his vacation estate in Tanay, Rizal.

According to Rodriguez, the ad appeared to have a dual purpose—to remind the public of Estrada's "sins" and to capitalize on his being "hot media copy."

"They made money from him then, and they will make money from what they're doing to him now," Rodriguez said.



BIG PRAYERS
Senate employees spread out a giant rosary made of balloons in front of the Senate building for peace and unity in the country in observance of the Holy Rosary month. ROGER MARGALLO

Ex-general beats raps in RSBS land deal

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE GOVERNMENT HAS LOST A P2.46-MILlion estafa case against retired Brig. Gen. Jose Ramiscal Jr. in connection with an irregular land deal that allegedly helped to bleed dry the military's pension fund in 1997.

The Sandiganbayan 3rd Division, however, upheld Ramiscal's indictment on a separate graft charge for the same transaction that allegedly misused funds from the Armed Forces' Retirement and Separation Benefits System (RSBS) which Ramiscal headed at the time.

Charged with Ramiscal were Meinrado Enrique Bello and Manuel Satuito, the then legal division chief and chief of the documentation department of the RSBS, respectively.

Ramiscal is facing 17 counts of graft and 12 counts of falsification of public documents in various divisions involving more than P100 million for the allegedly irregular acquisition of real estate in Tanauan, Batangas between 1996 and 1997.

Not enough evidence

In clearing the respondents on the estafa charge, the antigraft court said that state prosecutors did not present sufficient evidence to pin down Ramiscal and his coaccused.

Court records showed that the P2.46 million was drawn from the RSBS to purchase a 1.22-hectare property in Tanauan, Batangas on Feb. 21, 1997.

But an Ombudsman investigation found that the Registry of Deeds of Tanauan showed that only a quarter of the amount, or P425,495, was paid to the landowners.

It was later found that the P425,495 price was cited in the new land title issued to the AFP pension fund, and that the amount of P2.46 million was never considered as a basis for the transfer.

The Sandiganbayan said that the RSBS officials caused undue injury to the government amounting to P2.04 million, representing the discrepancy in the purchase price for the Tanauan property.

"Despite their awareness of the existence of two deeds of sale containing contradictory prices, they still gave their approval to the release of funds," the court said.

However, the court said that state prosecutors failed to prove that the RSBS officials pocketed the money for their private benefit.

"Misappropriation or conversion may be proved by the prosecution by direct evidence or by circumstantial evidence. The prosecution failed to prove either," it said.

Spy agency spooked by media moles

By Tarra Quismundo

IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE ONE OF THE MOST secretive intelligence agencies in the country. So how come the controversy over its internal reorganization is all over the newspapers?

According to insiders, a "crackdown" of sorts has begun in the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (Nica) after disgruntled personnel leaked to the media documents detailing the agency's recent revamp.

Yesterday morning, when the report on the controversial reorganization hit the front pages, Nica executives allegedly told employees that they would all be questioned.

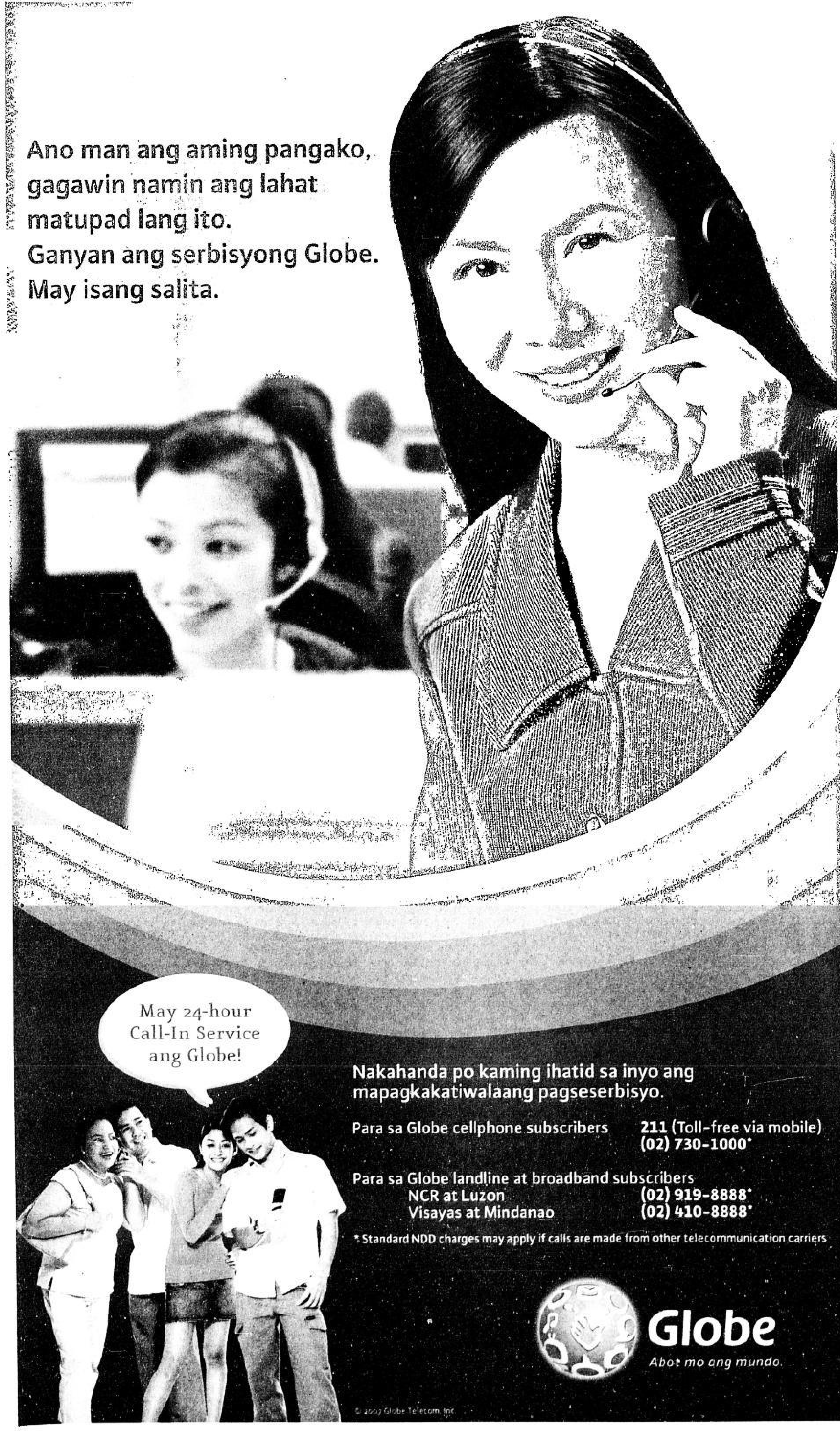
And to be sure everyone would tell the truth, each employee would have to undergo a lie-detector test, an insider said.

Some Nica employees had felt the revamp favored employees close to the powers-that-be and said so in surreptitiously circulated white papers, office chit-chat and even letters to colleagues in regional offices.

Nica employees who had spoken to the INQUIRER on condition of anonymity said they hoped the leak would lead of a review of some 100 prime positions distributed laterally, some to employees with questionable qualifications.

The insiders claimed a special committee tasked to screen employees for the new positions chose close friends—even if it meant disregarding the requirement of masteral degrees.

The reorganization was prompted by an executive order issued by President Macapagal-Arroyo in 2002, which underlined the need for Nica "to be sufficiently responsive to challenges of the new millennium."



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NBI gives doc's son one week to show up

By Tina G. Santos

MIGUEL "MICO" CRUZ HAS UNTIL NEXT week to appear at the National Bureau of Investigation to shed light on the case of suspected hazing victim Cris Anthony Mendez (See related story below).

Cruz reportedly brought Mendez to their house in Congressional Village, Project 8, Quezon City. The victim was then taken by Cruz's doctor-father, Francisco, to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center.

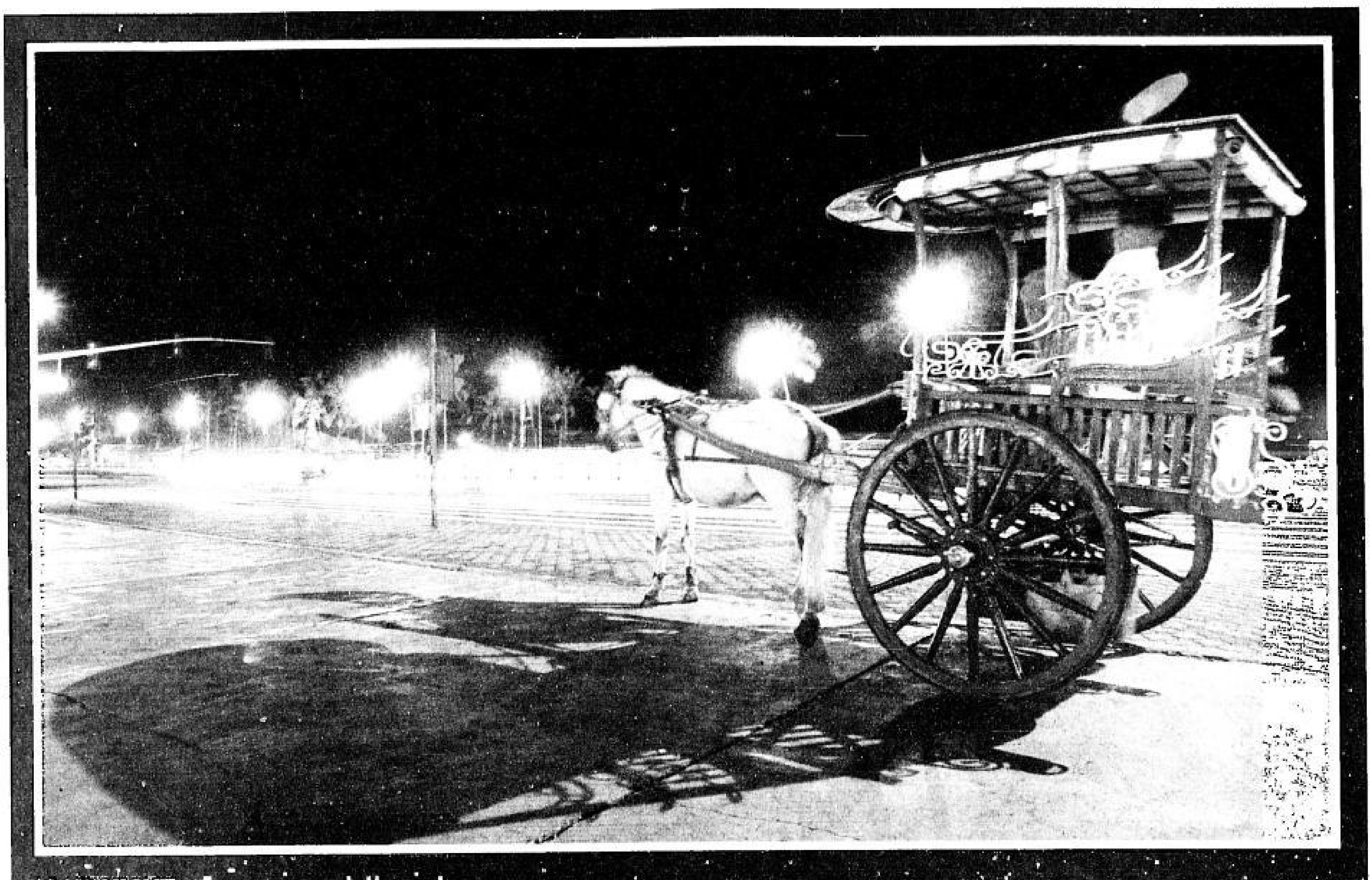
The older Cruz, through his lawyer Norberto Malit, asked the NBI to give his son until Wednesday to present himself to investigators, according to Romulo Asis, chief of the bureau's antiterrorism division.

"Mr. Malit said Dr. Cruz was trying to convince his son to appear and cooperate in the investigation," Asis said.

The younger Cruz is a law student at the University of the Philippines and reportedly a neophyte of Sigma Rho, the fraternity that Mendez was allegedly trying to join.

"Mico is young and gullible. Maybe he was the one asked by the group to bring Mendez to the hospital since his father is a doctor," the lawyer said.

Without saying that hazing actually occurred, Malit said Mendez's injuries were "obviously hazing marks."



SLOW NIGHT

RAFFY LERMA

A *kalesa* driver waits for passengers along Roxas Boulevard in Manila in front of the Baywalk. The strip is now a quiet haven for visitors who like taking leisurely strolls and watching glorious sunsets.

Foul smell sends 6 persons to Pasig hospital

'Hazardous' waste found in factory yard

By Kristine L. Alave

SIX PERSONS, INCLUDING three children, were rushed to the hospital after inhaling noxious chemicals from a nearby warehouse early yesterday morning.

The six were released from the hospital on the same day.

Raquel Naciongayo, chief of the City Environment and Natural Resources Office said the office of the mayor sent the Dai Ichi Electronics Manufacturing Corp. on F. Legaspi St., Barangay Maybunga, a notice of violation of local and national laws on the disposal of hazardous wastes.

She said the company was ordered to clean the area within three days and to cover the chemical containers with foil as a temporary measure.

At about 8 a.m. yesterday, residents of a building in Barangay Maybunga noticed a foul odor in the air. Health and rescue officials traced the smell to the Dai Ichi warehouse. Naciongayo said they found containers of chemicals at the back of the warehouse that were not disposed of properly.

She said the chemicals and paints were classified as "low to moderate hazardous wastes" from the company's factory in Barangay Santolan. Dai Ichi manufactures speakers and audio systems.

Residents of the nearby BLISS Building 6 experienced breathing difficulty and eye and throat irritation, Naciongayo said. Sent to the Pasig City General Hospital for treatment were Belinda Garcia, Lean Garcia, and Josie Guian; and three children who were not identified.

A television report quoted an employee of the company saying Dai Ichi had the necessary permits and clearance.

Decision on case vs UP frat members vital to cops' probe

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THE QUEZON CITY POLICE DISTRICT (QCPD) is awaiting the decision on the administrative charges filed against 12 members of the Sigma Rho fraternity before the student disciplinary tribunal of the University of the Philippines (UP) in Diliman to further bolster its case against members of the fraternity believed to be involved in the suspected hazing death of senior public administration student Cris Anthony Mendez.

"The decision of the tribunal will definitely further strengthen our case against the persons we have identified to be responsible for the victim's death," Senior Insp. Jay Borromeo of the QCPD Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit legal division said.

Borromeo stressed that they do not want any legal loopholes, which the suspects may invoke, to escape culpability. "We are working carefully and keeping our cards close to our chest," he added.

He said the QCPD-CIDU has not stopped investigating the suspected hazing death of Cris even if they feel they have enough evidence to support criminal charges against the personalities involved.

"We really want an air tight case against the suspects. We do not want them to get away from facing responsibility for Mendez's death," Borromeo stressed.

Meanwhile, UP Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Elizabeth Enriquez said the student disciplinary tribunal (SDT) may take longer than expected regarding the administrative case filed by the Diliman Legal Office (DLO) against officers and members of the Sigma Rho.

She clarified that the SDT is a completely independent tribunal, and when they would release its decision is entirely dependent on its members who may summon witnesses for further questioning.

The SDT is composed of three members, headed by lawyer Jonathan Sale. But two more members—a parent juror and a student juror—may be added to the group.

Should the SDT find the students facing administrative charges guilty, the sanctions could range from suspension to expulsion, depending on the gravity of the offense.

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Pasig lawyer charged with double murder

By Kristine L. Alave

PASIG CITY LEGAL CITY LEGAL DEpartment lawyer Manuel Hernandez Jr. is facing double murder charges for allegedly shooting to death two people in Pasig City Tuesday afternoon.

He was accused of killing Edgardo Canizares, 49, a Makati City resident and contributor to Pahayagang Pinoy; and Katherine Palmero, 27, a New Manila, Quezon City resident.

Police said Hernandez, a city hall employee and a nephew of Sandiganbayan Justice Jose Hernandez, was charged in the Pasig City Prosecutor's Office yesterday afternoon.

Pasig City police chief Sr. Supt. Frank Uyami said witnesses "positively identified" Hernandez and his vehicle.

Hernandez spent almost a day in the office of the Pasig City police investigation division. Police said he conferred with his relatives and lawyers. Hernandez, however, has yet to give the police his side. He also refused to talk to the media.

Uyami said the accused refused to undergo a paraffin test Tuesday night and signed a waiver at the laboratory.

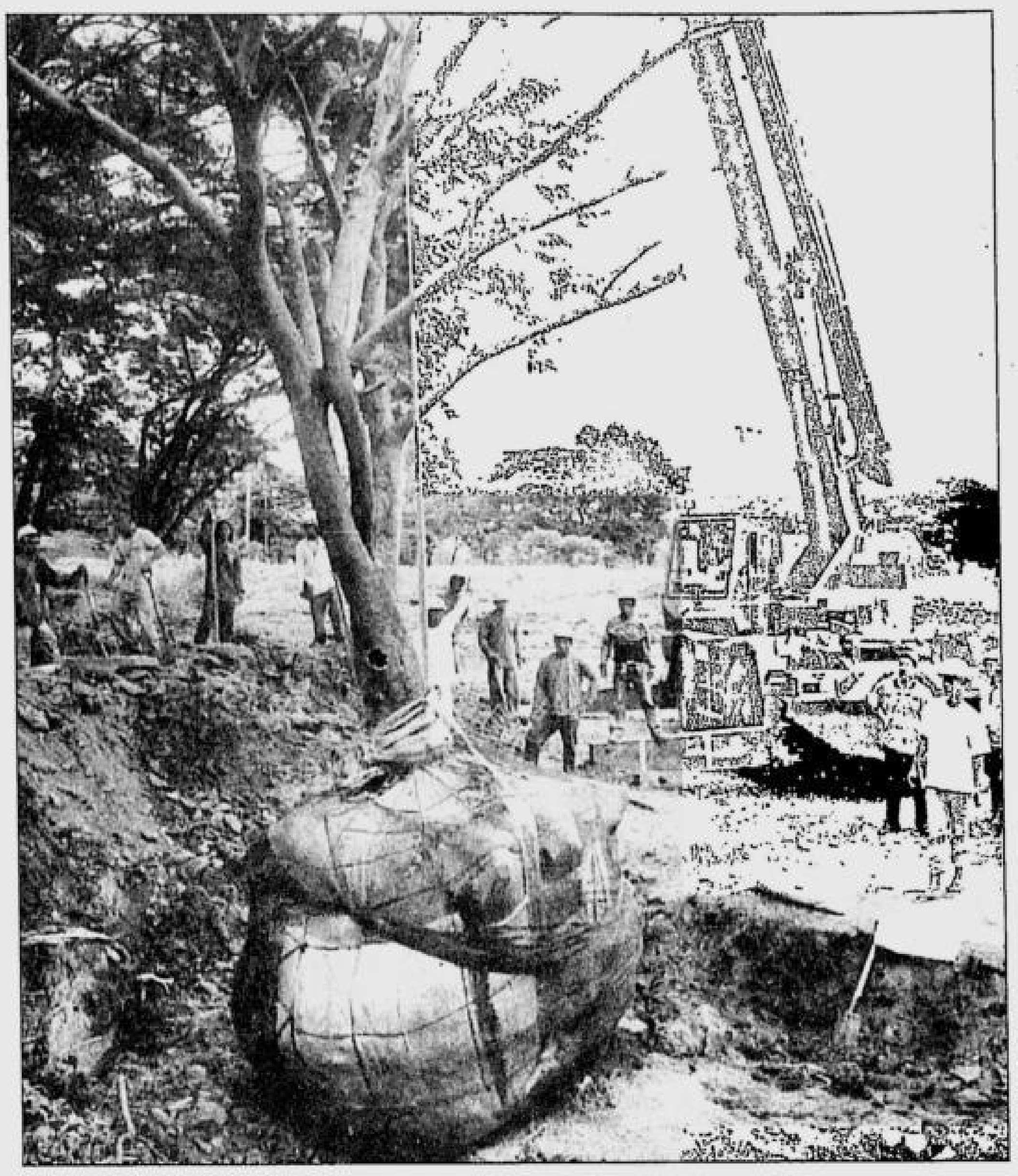
Police arrested Hernandez in his residence in Barangay Kapitolyo. The incident that occurred around 1:30 p.m. Tuesday allegedly was a case of road rage.

Investigators said Hernandez's Toyota Corolla vehicle and Canizares' Nissan Cefiro almost collided on Gen. Roxas St. at the corner of Shaw Boulevard. Witnesses said the two argued and Canizares yelled insults at Hernandez.

Hernandez allegedly took a gun from his car and fired at Canizares. The victim sustained four shots and died on the spot. Hernandez then shot Palmero, who got out of the car. She died while being treated at the Medical City Tuesday afternoon.

Police said they traced Hernandez through his car's plate number (UEP-457). Hernandez did not resist arrest. But the police has not found the .9 mm gun used in the shooting.

Apart from two counts of murder, Hernandez could be charged for violation of the Commission on Election's gun ban related to the coming barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections.



SAVING TREES

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Prime property developer, Ayala Land Inc. (ALI) helps save trees in its first office development project in Quezon City, the UP North Science and Technology Park. In support of the company's pro-environment program, mature trees will be balled and relocated within the project site to avoid having to chop these down to make way for soon to rise office buildings.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
3rd Flr., Andenson Bldg., II, Brgy. Parian, Calamba City
Telefax Nos. (049) 545-0292
October 04, 2007

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s.

	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
1.	JINMYUNG WASHING & DYEING CORP. CEZ, Rosario, Cavite	Ms. Jong Sim Chai (w/o Lee)/ Korean	Assistant Production Manager - Farm in/Out
2.	TOSHIBA INFORMATION EQUIPMENT (PHILIPPINES), INC. Laguna, Technopark, Biñan, Laguna	Mr. Mitsuhiro Fujii/ Japanese	Assistant to the President - HME
3.	LEE OUTFIT CORPORATION PEZA, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Wonjung Lee/Korean	Production Supervisor
4.	WYNTRON, INC. PEZA, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Chan Yo Jeon/Korean	Operations Adviser
5.	OWEN BOARDING & LODGING, INC. Cellar Mansion, San Jose, Tagaytay City	Mr. Jong Hwan Hong/ Korean	President & General Manager
6.	KNOWELL & YOUNG HYUN BOARDING & LODGING South Ridge, Sungay West, Tagaytay City	Mr. Young Hyun Cho/ Korean	General Manager
7.	ERGO CONTRACTS PHILIPPINES, INC. CIP I, Canlubang, Calamba City	Mr. Toon Sin Hong/ Malaysian	Assistant Supervisor
8.	PHILIPPINES EPSON OPTICAL, INC. GBP, Javalera, Gen. Trias, Cavite	Mr. Yukio Ishii / Japanese	Production Control Manager
9.	OPTIS PHILIPPINES, INC. CIP II, Calamba City	Mr. Cheonwoo Kim/ Korean	Production Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, SR., CESO III**
Regional Director

(PDI-October 4, 2007)

'Supt. Garcia didn't commit suicide'

By Kenneth del Rosario

"HE DID NOT TAKE HIS OWN LIFE."

This was the assessment of Lino Banaag, homicide division chief inspector of the Quezon City District Police Criminal Investigation Division Unit, amidst speculations that Jose Garcia, commander of QCPD Station 8, committed suicide

Garcia's body was found on Saturday night in his Veterans Village House in Quezon City with a lone gunshot wound on the left portion of his chest.

Banaag, assigned to lead the investigation of the colonel's death, made the assessment after tracing the origin of the foot and hand prints on the spot where Garcia's body was discovered.

The prints, he said, definitely came from outside the fence of the colonel's home, leading police to believe the victim may have had unexpected "visitors" on the night he was found dead.

Banaag said they are trying to determine whom the prints belong to. QCPD Police Insp. Robert Razon said they also found burn marks or tattooing at the entry point of the gunshot wound, indicating that Garcia could have been shot at close range.

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) announces that the following are the candidates considered for the (2) positions of **ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS** vice Hon. Renato C. Dacudao and Hon. Arsenio J. Magpale;

1. ALHAMBRA, REYNALDO A.
2. AYSON, RUBEN C.
3. BARRIOS, MANUEL M.
4. BORRETA, ABRAHAM B.
5. CORNEJO, MA. CRISTINA J.
6. DELOS SANTOS, EDGARDO L.
7. DUMDUM, SIMEON JR. P.
8. GACUTAN, ANGELITA A.
9. GAERLAN, SAMUEL H.
10. GARVILLES, EDGAR G.
11. GENILO, LITA S.
12. HERRERA, OSCAR JR. C
13. INOTURAN, NAPOLEON E.
14. LACAP, MERCEDES P.
15. LAQUINDANUM, LILY LYDIA A.
16. LLOREN, EDGARDO T.
17. MACALINO, FLORITO S.
18. MAYO, MANUEL A.
19. PAREDES, VICTORIA ISABEL A.
20. PERALTA, EDUARDO B. JR.
21. PONFERRADA, THELMA A.
22. ROSALES, ANTONIO M.
23. SADANG, MELCHOR Q.
24. SORONGON, EDWIN D.
25. TANGUANCO, EDUARDO I.
26. VILLASOR, EDWIN A.
27. YAP, MARILYN L.
28. ZALAMEDA RODIL V.

The public may submit sworn complaint, written report, or opposition against any of the aforesaid candidates **not later than 15 October 2007** to the JBC Secretariat, 2nd Flr., Centennial Bldg., Supreme Court, Padre Faura St., Manila (Tel. No. 552-9512; Fax No. 552-9598; e-mail address jbc@supremecourt.gov.ph; jbc_supremecourt@yahoo.com.ph).

Conformably with Section 1, Rule 7 of the Rules of the JBC (JBC-009), as amended, the public is hereby invited to the panel interview **on 30 October 2007** at the Division Hearing Room, Ground Floor, New Supreme Court Building of the following candidates:

9:00 A.M. - 12:00 NOON
1. CORNEJO, MA. CRISTINA J.
2. GACUTAN, ANGELITA A.
3. GAERLAN, SAMUEL H.
4. GARVILLES, EDGAR G.

2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.
5. GENILO, LITA S.
6. ROSALES, ANTONIO M.
7. SADANG MELCHOR QUIRINO C.
8. YAP, MARILYN L.

The other candidates had already been interviewed by the JBC in June 2007.

Further, in view of the insufficient number of applicants for the positions of Chairman and Regular Members of the Legal Education Board, the submission of applications or recommendations is extended to **24 October 2007.**

3 October 2007.

MDVillarama
MA. LUISA D. VILLARAMA
Clerk of Court & JBC
Ex Officio Secretary

(PDI–October 4, 2007)

Ham too early for Yuletide

By Julie Aurelio

TEN TONS OF spoiled pork meat was seized from a container van in Pasay City early yesterday morning during a routine inspection made by the city veterinary office.

The seized meat, which had not been refrigerated, was was supposed to be processed into ham in time for the Christmas season. City veterinary office chief Dr. Rodolfo Bernasor said they stumbled upon the find at around 1:30 a.m. after checking a tip from a concerned citizen.

The seized meat did not have a meat inspection clearance according to Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad.

Senate deviating from core issue in NBN scandal

THE SENATE SHOULD NOT DEVIATE FROM the core issue in the National Broadband Network (NBN) scandal by trying to ferret out the identities of the senators who allegedly divulged what transpired during the closed-door executive session last week to the INQUIRER.

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

The issue is to what extent was President Gloria's involvement in the stinking deal government with China's ZTE Corp. that she herself has now scrapped.

The executive session was called because former National Economic Development Authority Secretary Romulo Neri refused to reveal the nature of his conversations on the NBN contract with the President to the Senate blue ribbon committee.

Neri had told reporters before he answered the blue ribbon summons that he had informed the President about the P200-million bribe offer allegedly offered to him by the recently-resigned Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos. And the President, according to Neri, told him not to accept it.

But at the committee hearing, Neri refused to reveal in the open his conversations with the President about the NBN deal.

At the executive session, Neri reportedly got very sick, prompting Sen. Joker Arroyo to call on Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya to lead the former Neda director out of the session room.

Arroyo now wants the identities of the senator-informants revealed and the INQUIRER investigated.

Everything that takes place during a congressional executive session is secret, and members who make them public can be expelled from the House or the Senate.

The Arroyo-initiated investigation will amount to nothing, because the INQUIRER will never reveal the identities of its sources.

Any journalist worth his salt will never give away his source of information. He would not only violate a journalist's code of ethics if he did, he would also be destroying his career.

A journalist's job depends on the trust placed on him by persons from whom he gets information.

If Sen. Arroyo insists in pursuing his investigation of his four unidentified colleagues and the INQUIRER, he would give the impression that he's trying to protect some crooks in the Arroyo administration.

Now, which is more important to the feisty senator from Bicol, exposing the big-time crooks in and out of this government or protecting the sanctity of the Senate executive session?

Anyway, Neri did not reveal anything at the executive session since he became very sick—he threw up several times—prompting the senators to allow him to leave with Andaya.

* * *

From what this columnist gathered, Abalos was just a minor player, just like Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza.

Abalos was just the facilitator and Mendoza, the man who implemented the NBN deal.

Through his constant contact with ZTE officials, who played golf with him, Abalos made for an excellent middleman between the major players and ZTE officials.

It is perceived that the major players in the scandal, were what Sen. Panfilo Lacson described as the "Big One" and the "Small One" and a big businessman.

* * *

If Neri does not divulge the identities of the major and minor players in the NBN scandal, our only hope of identifying them is Philippine Star columnist Jarius Bondoc.

Neri has told everything he knew about the scandal to Jarius, including the names of those involved in the mess.

For the sake of good government, the Senate blue ribbon committee should ask Jarius to reveal what Neri has told him about the scandal.

By the way, the columnist has filed an affidavit about what Neri told him just in case something untoward happens to him.

Apart from his lawyer, copies of the signed statement are now with people Jarius trusts.

HEALTHIER PARTNER
On September 29, the Philippine Daily Inquirer and United Laboratories Inc. conducted its 11th leg of Newsboy Medical Mission in Las Piñas area. 110 newsvendors and their immediate families were served in this mission.

Polish envoy hurt in Iraq bomb attack

BAGHDAD—POLAND'S AMbassador to Iraq was wounded on Wednesday when his diplomatic convoy was hit by a series of bombs in central Baghdad, which Polish officials described as an assassination attempt.

Iraqi police said one civilian was killed in the attack and five people were wounded, including three embassy officials.

"It was an assassination attempt. Our three cars drove onto mines," a Polish foreign ministry spokesperson said in Warsaw.

"A few people are wounded. Our ambassador, Gen. Edward Pietrzyk scrambled out (of the wreckage) on his own."

Poland backed the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003 which toppled Saddam Hussein and currently has around 1,000 troops in the country.

The explosions took place on a busy road in the Arasat district of central Baghdad.

Reuters Television pictures showed a European looking man with his head, leg and hands bandaged being evacuated in a helicopter which landed in the street.

Iraqi soldiers said the man, who was surrounded by security guards and troops, was the Polish ambassador. They said other wounded people had been taken by vehicle to the heavily fortified Green Zone for treatment.

Three cars appeared to have been hit in the attack. Two of them were completely burnt out and the third, a sports utility vehicle with shaded windows, carried a red and white looking diplomatic flag, a witness said.

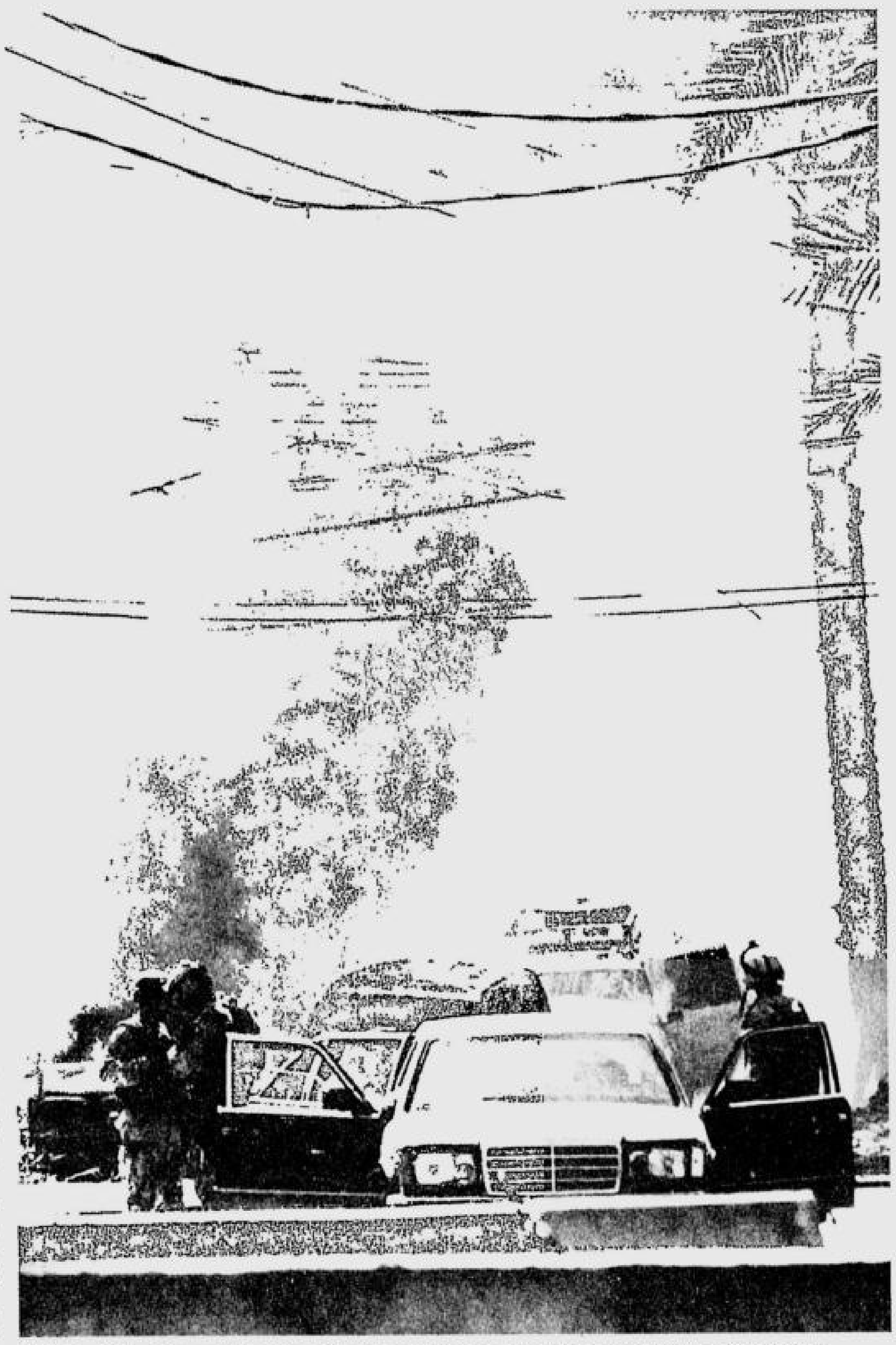
The street had been blocked off by Iraqi security forces.

Several diplomats have been killed by suspected al-Qaida militants in Baghdad since the 2003 invasion. Last year four Russian diplomats were abducted and killed.

In 2005 militants said they had killed Egyptian mission chief Ihab el-Sherif and Bahrain's envoy was shot and wounded when gunmen opened fire on his car.

Iraqi security forces, backed by thousands of extra US troops, have imposed a security crackdown across the Iraqi capital in recent months in an effort to curb sectarian fighting and militant attacks.

Both Baghdad and Washington say the campaign has led to a clear reduction in violence. But a group led by Sunni Islamist al-Qaida fighters pledged last month to step up attacks to mark the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. *Reuters*



IRAQI soldiers inspect the site of an attack targeting the Polish ambassador's convoy in Baghdad's al-Arasat neighborhood on Oct. 3. AFP

1,000 troops home by Christmas, says Brown

BASRA—BRITISH PRIME MINISTER GORdon Brown announced on Tuesday during a visit to Iraq that 1,000 British troops could be home by Christmas as he aims to hand control of Basra province back to the Iraqis within two months.

"I believe that by the end of the year the British forces which have been 5,500 can be reduced to 4,500 and by Christmas 1,000 of our troops can be brought back to the UK for other purposes," Brown said.

"I believe that within the next two months we can move to provincial Iraqi control (of Basra), that is Iraqis taking responsibility of their own security." White House spokesperson Dana Perino told reporters in Washington that the United States had no objections to the planned drawdown, 500 of which had been flagged by the British defense ministry on Sept. 8.

After meeting Iraqi counterpart Nouri al-Maliki in Baghdad on his maiden visit to Iraq since succeeding Tony Blair in June, Brown traveled on to visit British troops based at Basra airport.

"What you are doing here is making a huge difference," Brown told 200 troops and members of the US and Australian military in a five-minute speech at the British base at Basra airport.

"You're building a democracy by sustaining those people who want the people of the country and not the terrorists to control the future of the country. You're brave, you're courageous and I am incredibly proud of you." Earlier, Maliki assured journalists after meeting Brown that Iraqi forces were ready to take over from the British in the southern oil province. *AFP*

7 Miami men plotted to overthrow US, says prosecutor

MIAMI—SEVEN MEN PLOTted to bring down the US government by poisoning saltshakers and bombing landmark buildings, a prosecutor told Miami jurors as their terrorism conspiracy trial opened on Tuesday.

The "Liberty City Seven" aimed to create chaos as part of a holy war to pave the way for al-Qaida-affiliated guerrillas to take over the United States, Assistant US Attorney Richard Gregorie said in the prosecution's opening statement.

"We need to make the people go crazy in the streets," Gregorie quoted alleged ringleader Narseal Batiste as saying.

"Allah is going to take over through us."

Defense lawyers said the charges were "nonsense" scripted by the government and orchestrated by paid FBI informants they called Conman No. 1 and Conman No. 2.

They said the defendants, one of whom was devoted mainly to smoking marijuana, had no weapons or intent to do violence and that it was the informants who suggested poisoning restaurant saltshakers and blowing up buildings.

The "Liberty City Seven," named for the poor part of Miami where they gathered in a rundown warehouse, were arrested in 2006 on charges of plotting to blow up Chicago's 110-story Sears Tower—the tallest US skyscraper—along with several FBI offices and the Miami federal court complex where they are on trial.

The young men face up to 70 years in prison if convicted on all four conspiracy counts in a case government officials have touted as an important victory in the war against terrorism.

But federal agents said when they were arrested that the group's plans were "aspirational rather than operational," and posed no real threat because they had neither al-Qaida contacts nor means of carrying out attacks.

The government's main evidence is drawn from 15,000 audio and videotaped conversations made by the informants. One infiltrated the group and introduced the other, a purported al-Qaida operative from Yemen, as a friend of his uncle.

"Unknown to Mr. Batiste, it's Uncle Sam," Gregorie said.

Batiste's lawyer, Ana Jhones, portrayed him as a would-be religious leader who aspired to big things but lacked intellect and ability. *Reuters*

Diana inquest opens with accusations

LONDON—THE INQUEST INto Princess Diana's death in a Paris car crash 10 years ago opened on Tuesday with accusations that the British royal family ordered her death.

Mohamed al-Fayed, whose son Dodi also died in the crash after a brief but high-profile summer romance with Diana, said the couple were killed on the orders of Queen Elizabeth's husband, Diana's former father-in-law.

In a string of accusations listed in court by the judge, the owner of London's luxury Harrods store said the royal family could not bear the idea of Diana marrying a Muslim.

Major investigations by French and British police have concluded the deaths were a tragic accident caused by a speeding chauffeur, who was found to be drunk. They both have rejected Fayed's conspiracy theories.

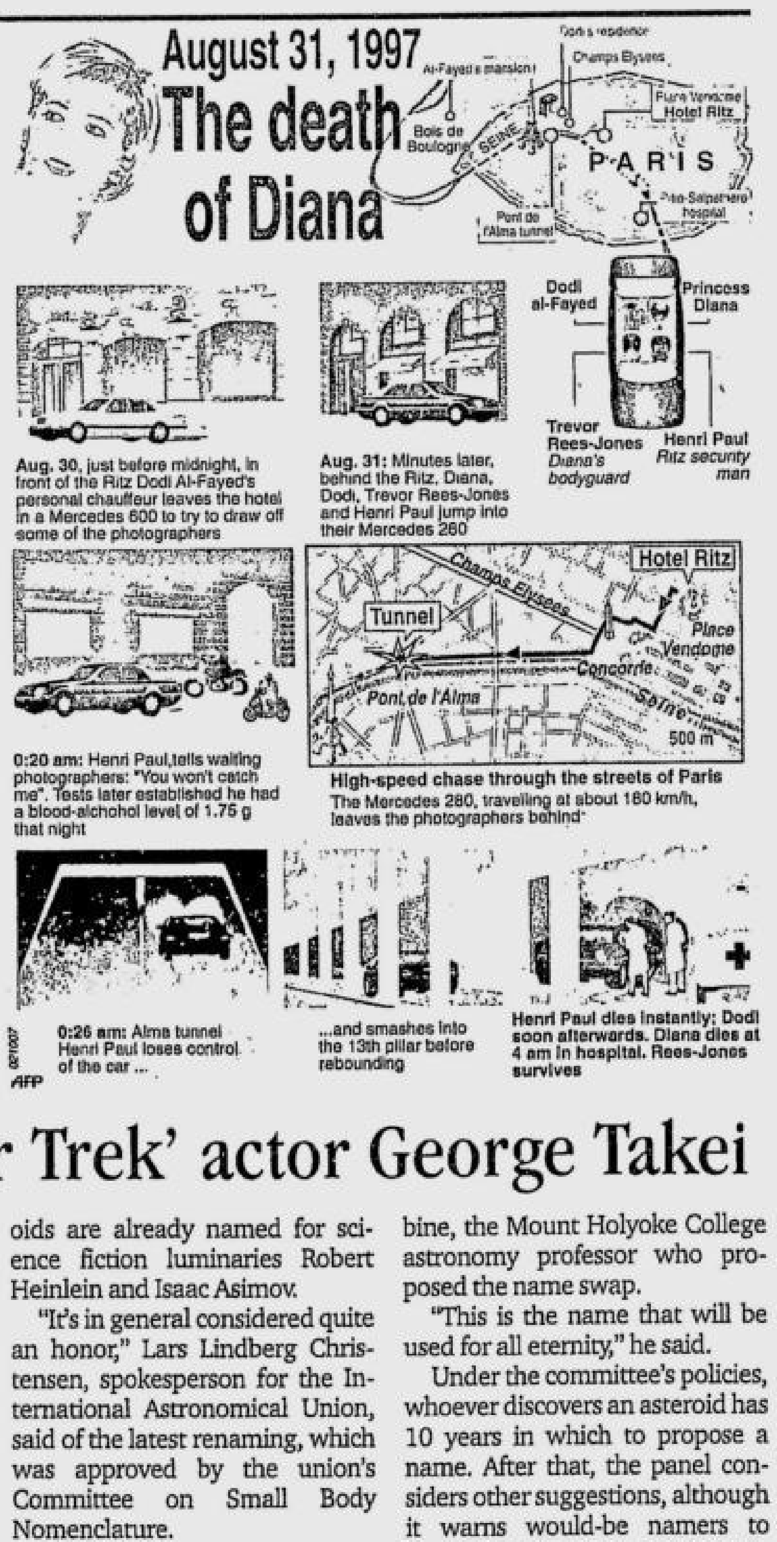
Lord Justice Scott Baker said Fayed alleged in a prepared witness statement that the royal family "could not accept that an Egyptian Muslim could eventually be stepfather to the future King of England (Diana's elder son Prince William)." "It's his belief that a decision was taken to kill both Diana and Dodi. He places Prince Philip at the heart of the conspiracy."

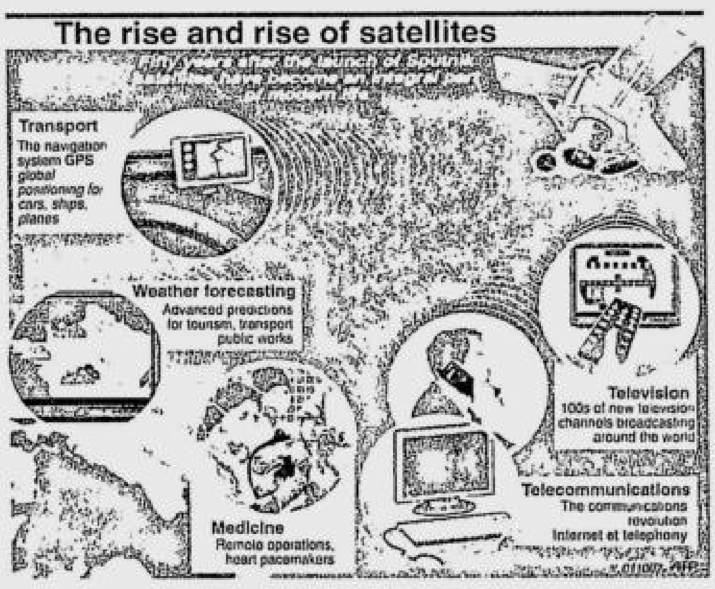
The judge told the jury: "You will have to listen carefully to the witnesses you hear to see whether there is any evidence to support this assertion."

Diana, 36, Dodi al-Fayed, 42, and chauffeur Henri Paul were killed when their Mercedes car crashed in a road tunnel as they sped away from the Ritz Hotel in Paris, pursued by paparazzi.

In Strasbourg, the European Court of Human Rights rejected Fayed's complaint that there were several shortcomings in the French investigation, saying there was no "impediment preventing the circumstances of the death of the applicant's son from being elucidated."

Fayed said Diana was pregnant with Dodi's child and that the couple were planning to announce their engagement. *Reuters*


August 31, 1997
The death of Diana
Al-Fayed's mansion
Dodi's residence
Champs Elysees
Place Vendome Hotel Ritz
Bois de Boulogne
SEINE
PARIS
Pont de l'Alma tunnel
Pitie-Salpetriere hospital
Dodi al-Fayed
Princess Diana
Trevor Rees-Jones Diana's bodyguard
Henri Paul Ritz security man
Aug. 30, just before midnight, in front of the Ritz Dodi Al-Fayed's personal chauffeur leaves the hotel in a Mercedes 600 to try to draw off some of the photographers
Aug. 31: Minutes later, behind the Ritz, Diana, Dodi, Trevor Rees-Jones and Henri Paul jump into their Mercedes 280
0:20 am: Henri Paul tells waiting photographers: "You won't catch me". Tests later established he had a blood-alchohol level of 1.75 g that night
Hotel Ritz
Champs Elysees
Tunnel
Place Vendome
Concorde
Pont de l'Alma
Seine
500 m
High-speed chase through the streets of Paris
The Mercedes 280, travelling at about 180 km/h, leaves the photographers behind
0:26 am: Alma tunnel Henri Paul loses control of the car ...
...and smashes into the 13th pillar before rebounding
Henri Paul dies instantly; Dodi soon afterwards. Diana dies at 4 am in hospital. Rees-Jones survives
AFP


The rise and rise of satellites
Transport
The navigation system GPS global positioning for cars, ships, planes
Weather forecasting
Advanced predictions for tourism, transport public works
Television
100s of new television channels broadcasting around the world
Medicine
Remote operations, heart pacemakers
Telecommunications
The communications revolution
Internet at telephony
AFP

Sputnik blazed a trail 50 years ago

MOSCOW—FOR THREE men standing at different junctures in the history of space exploration, a beeping sphere speeding across the sky in 1957 seemed at once silly, inspiring and a harbinger of things to come.

Boris Chertok, a key developer of the Sputnik satellite, which celebrates its 50-year launch anniversary on Oct. 4, said he still marvels at the significance of putting a shiny alloy ball into orbit.

"A day or two after that 'beep-beep' called out around the world, we were as excited as could be expected, but neither we nor the Soviet media understood the significance of our achievement," said Chertok.

Chertok and a team of engineers worked with Sergei Korolyev, the father of the Soviet space industry, in constructing the R-7 rocket as a delivery vehicle for intercontinental ballistic missiles, and saw Sputnik as an unimportant, secondary project.

"The majority of Korolyev's assistants, among whom I must include myself, out of thickheadedness and a lack of foresight, thought this was all a child's plaything, this Sputnik," Chertok told reporters at the Korolyev Museum in Moscow last week.

Korolyev drove his team of engineers to great lengths to put the Soviet Union into space first, ahead of the United States.

To do that, Korolyev reasoned, the Soviets would need to fly across the heavens and make themselves heard, above and beyond developing a missile that could deliver atomic bombs into America's heartland.

"Americans hawks were screaming that those who held the Cosmos in turn held the Earth," said Chertok, now 95 but still putting in two days a week as a consultant at Russian rocket manufacturer Energiya. *Reuters*

Asteroid is named for 'Star Trek' actor George Takei

NEW YORK—"STAR TREK" ACtor George Takei has been chosen as the namesake of the asteroid formerly known as the 1994 GT9.

The asteroid, located between Mars and Jupiter, has been renamed 7307 Takei in honor of the actor, who is best known for his role as Hikaru Sulu in the original "Star Trek" series.

"I am now a heavenly body," Takei said on Tuesday, laughing. "I found out about it yesterday … I was blown away. It came out of the clear, blue sky—just like an asteroid."

The celestial rock, discovered by two Japanese astronomers in 1994, joins the 4659 Roddenberry (named for the show's creator, Gene Roddenberry) and the 68410 Nichols (for co-star Nichelle Nichols, who played Lt. Uhura). Other main-belt asteroids are already named for science fiction luminaries Robert Heinlein and Isaac Asimov.

TAKEI AP

"It's in general considered quite an honor," Lars Lindberg Christensen, spokesperson for the International Astronomical Union, said of the latest renaming, which was approved by the union's Committee on Small Body Nomenclature.

About 14,000 asteroid names have been approved by the panel, while about 165,000 asteroids have been identified and numbered, he said.

Unlike the myriad websites that offer to sell naming rights to stars, the IAU committee-approved names are actually used by astronomers, said Tom Burbine, the Mount Holyoke College astronomy professor who proposed the name swap.

"This is the name that will be used for all eternity," he said.

Under the committee's policies, whoever discovers an asteroid has 10 years in which to propose a name. After that, the panel considers other suggestions, although it warns would-be namers to avoid anything "in questionable taste" and any names honoring political or military figures sooner than 100 years after their deaths.

Most recently, the 70-year-old Takei has appeared on NBC's "Heroes," playing Hiro Nakamura's father. He also appears regularly on Howard Stern's satellite radio show. *AP*

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Burma ignores int'l outrage; more arrested

RANGOON—BURMA'S (MYANMAR'S) JUNTA ARRESTED more people under the cover of darkness on Wednesday despite a crescendo of international outrage during a keenly watched UN mission to bring an end to a bloody crackdown on protests.

At least eight truckloads of prisoners were hauled out of downtown Rangoon, Burma's biggest city and center of monk-led protests against decades of military rule and deepening economic hardship, witnesses said.

In one house near the Shwedagon Pagoda, the holiest shrine in the devoutly Buddhist country and starting point for last week's rallies, only a 13-year-old girl remained. Her parents had been taken in the middle of the night, she said.

The crackdown continued despite some hopes of progress by UN envoy Ibrahim Gambari on his mission to persuade junta chief Than Shwe to relax his iron grip and open talks with detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, whom he met twice.

Singapore, current chair of the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) of which Burma is a member, said it "was encouraged by the access and cooperation given by the Burmese government to Mr. Gambari." It also said Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong told Gambari in a meeting that Asean, which rarely comments on affairs in member nations, wanted "national reconciliation and a peaceful transition to democracy" in Burma.

UN sources said Gambari expected to return in early November to Burma, whose generals seldom heed outside pressure and rarely grant UN officials permission to visit.

However, there were no indications of how his mission and international pressure might change junta policies.

So far, Asean's policy of "constructive engagement" has worked no better than Western sanctions, and the continuing arrests indicate the junta has not been swayed by Gambari.

Reuters

New San Jose Builders, Inc.
Ties up with Philippine National Bank

"Wherever you are in the world, owning a home in the Philippines just got easier"

Philippine National Bank
PNB
SIGNING OF
MEMORANDUM
OF AGREEMENT

The New San Jose Builders, Inc. (NSJBI), one of the Philippines' leading developers, continue to create sensible projects for Filipinos in the country and around the globe with properties like Victoria Towers, Victoria Station and Victoria de Manila under its belt. In line with its commitment to continue to provide quality high-rise residences that are innovative and affordable, it also continues to look for ways to making owning a home easier and more convenient. It has come up with a website as well as a customer service hotline to allow clients and prospective buyers to access valuable and up-to-date information anytime and anywhere in the world. The company is also set to create satellite offices outside the country. And just before the end of the second quarter of this year, NSJBI has tied up with the Philippine National Bank (PNB) for a faster, safer and more convenient manner of paying for one's dream home.

Present during the signing were PNB officers that included President & CEO Omar Byron T. Mier, SVP Rafael Z. Sison, Jr., GSM Narciso S. Capito, Jr., RSM Perla P. Jocson, and BM Liberty E. Cruz. Representing NSJB is its President, Rey L. Vergara and First Vice President for International Sales & Marketing Ma. Cristia Bonifacio Lin. The signing took place last May 31, 2007 at the Filipiniana Room, PNB Financial Center, Macapagal Ave., Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines.

The Philippine National Bank is a preferred banking institution where most, if not all, Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) maintain an account or more. It offers very good rates and very reasonable charges that make its financial products comparable with other banks. Its presence and affiliates around the country and in almost all of the places where Filipinos work abroad make it very accessible, thus, convenient. "We know for a fact that this move will make it easier for our kababayans to pay for their chosen property. That way, they would be able to invest their money wisely in any of our properties even while working abroad," shares Bonifacio-Lin.

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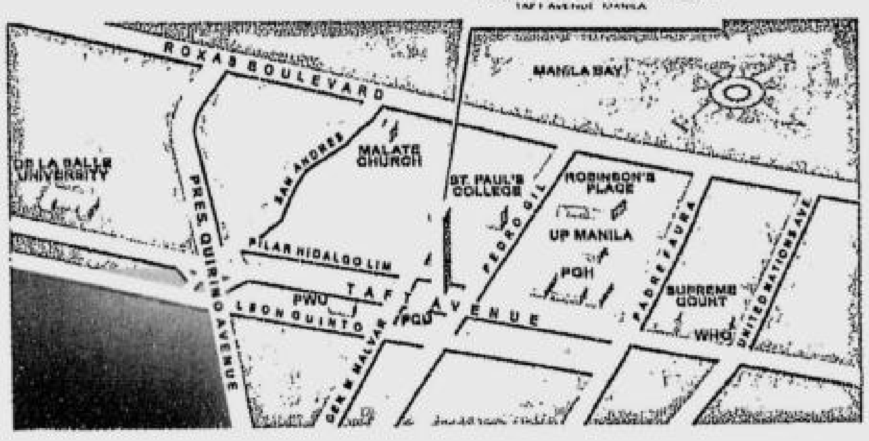
Location Map



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Military officer defects to Thailand

BANGKOK—A BURMESE (MYANMAR) military officer has fled to Thailand to seek asylum, apparently because he refused orders to attack Buddhist monks in antijunta protests, a senior Thai intelligence official said on Wednesday.

Maj. Hla Win entered Thailand with help from a non-government organization, and he hopes to apply for asylum in Norway, the official told AFP.

"He is not a senior general, but is mid-ranking," the official said.

Hla Win's defection is the first known case of a military official fleeing the country since the junta last week ordered a crackdown on antigovernment protests.

The Thai official could not say why Hla Win had fled, but Burma watchers said they believed he had refused orders to open fire on Buddhist monks who last week last 100,000 people into the streets of Yangon.

At least 13 people were killed and 1,000 arrested in a bloody crackdown on protesters in Rangoon.

The protests erupted in mid-August after a hike in the price of fuel, but escalated into the biggest threat to the regime in 20 years when Buddhist monks emerged to lead the movement.

AFP

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong-il, front, talks with South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun during a summit meeting in Pyongyang, North Korea, on Wednesday. AP

Korean talks outcome pleases Roh

SEOUL—SOUTH KOREA'S PRESIDENT said on Wednesday after talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong-il that he was pleased with the result, and his spokesperson added the sides were drafting an agreement.

South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun said he was "satisfied with the outcome of the talks," his spokesperson Cheon Ho-seon told the reporters in taped comments relayed from Pyongyang.

Cheon added that the sides would draft an agreement by Thursday morning.

The comments came after Roh and Kim held two sessions of talks at the second-ever summit between leaders of the North and South.

The two Koreas decided not to extend their first summit in seven years after Kim said there had been sufficient discussion between the sides.

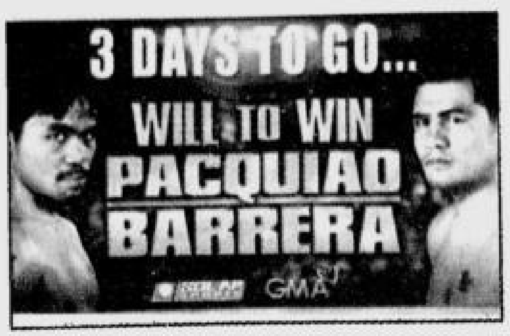
"As we had enough dialogue, we don't need to extend" the summit, Kim said after the end of a second session of talks Wednesday with Roh, according to South Korean pool reports. The leaders shook hands at the end of their meetings, both appearing cheerful in video relayed from Pyongyang.

The two Koreas were to issue a joint statement on Thursday morning, according to pool reports.

Roh said he had sought common ground with Kim as they opened formal talks in Pyongyang.

"We didn't reach consensus on everything. There were parts on which our perceptions coincided, and there were other parts" on which the perceptions didn't coincide, Roh said at a luncheon with the South Korean delegation during a pause in his talks with Kim.

"However, what I clearly confirmed is that (Kim) has a firm will about peace and there was consensus that there should be an agreement this time that presents a future direction about peace," Roh said. *AP*



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JV CASIO (right) and the Green Archers will try to find a way to mow down Paul Lee and the rampaging Warriors. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

UAAP: It's showtime

Warriors eye perfect end to dream season

GAME TODAY *(Araneta Coliseum)*
3 p.m.—UE vs La Salle (Game 1 of best-of-three Finals)

By Jasmine W. Payo

UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST tries to supply a glorious ending to what started as a dream UAAP basketball season when the Warriors shoot for the championship against the De La Salle Green Archers starting today at the Araneta Coliseum.

The best-of-three title playoffs gets going at 3 p.m. with the Warriors, who won the last of their 18 titles way back in 1985 behind a team led by the now retired Allan Caidic and Jerry Codiñera, the prohibitive favorites following their 14-game sweep of the eliminations.

Aside from the motivation of ending a long title drought, the Warriors are hoping to become the first team to pull off a 16-game unbeaten championship romp and tie the record 19 titles the Far Eastern University Tamaraws hold.

And the Warriors go into the championship series well-rested against the Archers, who had to go through an emotional and strength-sapping two-game encounter with their blood rivals, the Ateneo Blue Eagles, last week to clinch the second title slot.

It is actually the first UE-La Salle title confrontation since 1990 and there's an equally interesting sub-plot as the Warriors will be setting out under Dindo Pumaren whose elder brother Franz is coaching the Archers.

"We had a long break, but we've been practicing hard," said Dindo of his Warriors, who will be coming off a 20-day rest after clinching the first finals berth as a bonus for winning all 14 assignments in the elimination round.

"The morale of the team is still high. Even during practice, I can see that the boys' aggressiveness and intensity are still there," the younger Pumaren added.

University of Santo Tomas was the last team to score a 14-game sweep of the eliminations which automatically rewarded the Tigers the championship in 1993.

The tournament format was changed since then.

And the well-rested Warriors remain a concern for the wornout Archers, who actually played three extra games—all against arch rival Ateneo—to reach the finals.

"We're the underdogs (in the series)," said Franz. "We went to the usual process and it wasn't a breeze."

The Archers fought for the twice-to-beat bonus against the Eagles in a playoff for the No. 2 spot, then disposed their rivals again in the second game of their semifinal series, 65-60, last Sunday.

"Even if we're coming from a very emotional victory, 14-0 is still 14-0," said Franz. "We didn't beat them (Warriors) in the last two games."

But Dindo noted that even if the Archers took the longer route, the finals is a familiar spot for their seasoned opponents.

"I don't think they're the underdogs; we are the rookies in the finals," said Dindo. "La Salle's players have championship experience. Franz has a proven record. They know how it's like to be in the finals."

Dindo also acknowledges the possibility that his older brother's squad is capable of stopping the Warriors' rare streak.

"Every game there's pressure," said Dindo. "I've been telling the players that 14-0 will mean nothing if we don't win the championship."

Magnolia takes over from SMB

By Musong R. Castillo

A NEW NAME FOR THE SAME FEARSOME team.

San Miguel, the winningest franchise in the history of the Philippine Basketball Association, will be represented by another brand in its conglomerate—Magnolia—when the league's 33rd season blasts off on Oct. 14.

But the core of the team—reputed to be the one to beat in the Philippine Cup—remains intact with a slew of veterans and up-and-comers forming what could stand as two all-star teams rolled into one.

Danny Seigle and Danny Ildefonso will return healthy and sharp as ever to lead the Beverage Masters in trying to win for the San Miguel franchise an 18th title in Asia's first play-for-pay league.

"Yes, there is added pressure to win the championship (because of our strong lineup)," said Seigle during the formal launch of the team's new name yesterday at the San Miguel offices in Ortigas.

"But it is every player's goal to win the championship," he added. "And that is just a new challenge and we welcome that challenge."

San Miguel was the runner-up in the Philippine Cup won by sister team Barangay Ginebra last year. But this year's squad added some vital pieces into the rotation like height, playmaking and outside shooting.

Streak-shooting outside gunner and former Rookie of the Year Larry Fonacier was acquired from Red Bull and 6-foot-9 Samigue Eman was picked second overall in the draft.

Only Dorian Peña, as far as members of last year's squad are concerned, will not be returning in time for the opening toss. The 6-foot-7 Fil-American is still recovering from surgery.

Nomura bets falter, share 9th place with HK

THE PHILIPPINES, WITH MARK FERNANDO carding no more than a team-best three-over-75, fell into a tie for ninth place Wednesday even as Japan forged ahead after two rounds of the 23rd Nomura Cup at the wind-swept Sunrise Golf and Country Club in Taipei.

Jonel Ababa, who led the Filipinos with a 73 in the first round, ballooned to an 80 and one of the 81 of Tonlits Asistio and James Ryan Lam counted as RP totalled 236 and dropped into a deadlock with Hong Kong at 465.

The Japanese grabbed the lead with a 440 total as Shunsuke Sonoda and Yuki Usami shot 73s and Yuki Ito added a 74.

Australia, with Rohan Blizard grabbing the individual lead with a four-under 68, moved up to take second at 443 with first-day leader South Korea dropping to third at 444.

Andrew Dodt backed up Blizard with a 71 while Tim Stewart completed the Australian output with a 79.

Thailand was running fourth at 447 followed by New Zealand (452), host Chinese Taipei (453), Malaysia (459) and India (463).

Blizard showed the way in the individual derby with a 36-hole total of 143, four strokes ahead of teammate Dodt, Japan's Ito and Naoyuki Tamura and New Zealand's James Gill.

Ababa and Fernando were tied for 20th place at 153.

Indonesia was running 11th at 472 in the biennial four-to-play, three-to-count tournament also known as the Asia-Pacific Amateur golf team championship.

Singapore stood at 481. *Musong R. Castillo*

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Ang mga nanalo sa Luzon (Oct. 1)

P100,000.00 Winners		
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Z. Tecio	Quezon City	JNH87Y5NRG
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E. Napire	Quezon City	ATCQ9WZAI8
A. Guieb	Zambales	JYIJ18LSKJ

Ang mga nanalo sa VisMin(Sept. 24)

P100,000.00 Winners		
Name	City	Reference #
S. Murio	Bislig City	3CAV549N3Y
P50,000.00 Winners		
S. Abarce	Davao Oriental	KC1DDQZ6FV
A. V. Lao	Davao City	0VYI540QKK

Ang mga nanalo sa VisMin(Oct. 1)

P100,000.00 Winners		
Name	City	Reference #
F. Elpina	Lapu-Lapu City	B7LPBMAVD6
P50,000.00 Winners		
N. Zaragoza	Zamboanga	LYQK3I5P4T
T. Montebon	Cebu City	18853BOQF4

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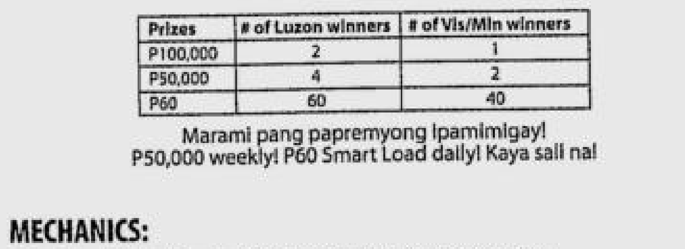

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text in ang 15-digits numeric lotto ticket number
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* Superlotto 6/49, Megalotto 6/45, Lotto 6/42, 6-Digit, 4-Digit, Suertres and EZ2 tickets

Prizes	# of Luzon winners	# of Vis/Min winners
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P50,000	4	2
P60	60	40

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   C. Save the confirmation message, reference number, and lotto ticket
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   B. Confirmation message with reference number will be sent to your phone MM:DD:YY< hh:mm:ss. Natanggap ng Lotto 2nd Chance Panalo ang entry mo <15-digit ticket#>. Meron kang 1 entry <reference#>. Ang draw date nito ay sa <mm/dd/yy>. Ipakita ang orihinal na ticket sa pag claim ng prize. 18 years old pataas lang ang pwedeng sumali
   C. Save the confirmation message, reference number, and lotto ticket
   D. Winner's names will be published in leading newspapers.
4. Weekly validity period is from 12:00am Monday to 11:59pm Sunday. All tickets bought from Monday to Sunday should be sent in by Sunday 11:59pm to qualify. P2.50 per entry.
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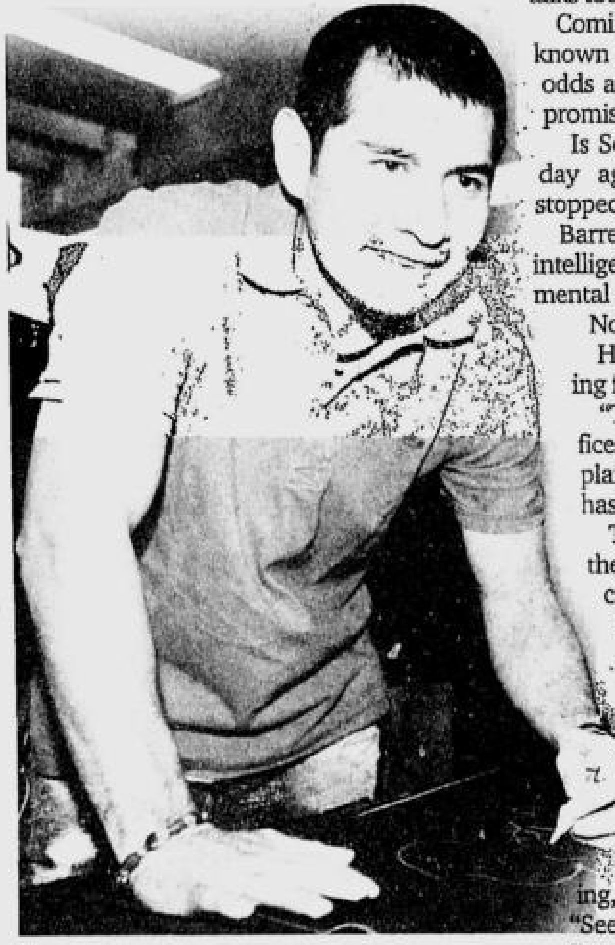
BARRERA VOW

'The Philippines will be shocked'

By Recah Trinidad

LAS VEGAS—MARCO ANTONIO BARrera, already down and out in the eyes and hearts of most Filipino boxing devotees, yesterday threw a thundering counter-punch at the site of his Oct. 6 rematch with Manny Pacquiao.



BARRERA: Unbearable sacrifices REUTERS

"The Philippines will be shocked," the 33-year-old Mexican warrior declared with stinging authority.

It was thus the strongest statement on the Pacquiao-Barrera rematch and its impact was readily felt all the way to the Philippines.

"RP shocked already," said jazz star Richard Merk from his popular club in Makati. "He talks too much, no headbutts, please."

Coming from a battle-scarred warrior known to be at his fiercest best when all the odds are against him, it sounded more of a promise than a threat.

Is Señor Barrera ready for hell on Saturday against Pacquiao, who mauled and stopped him four years ago?

Barrera did not reply. He rolled his sharp, intelligent eyes, then made a hissing, sentimental sigh.

No need to elaborate, he tried to signify.

He had, after all, gone to hell in preparing for the rematch.

"There were great, unbearable sacrifices," the tough-looking Barrera explained through an interpreter. "This fight has become very personal to me."

The affair was the media workout for the main protagonists in the Will to Win card, right at the Mandalay Events Center, venue of the rematch.

While they were expected to give media people a sneak view into their composure and physical form, both Barrera and Pacquiao did not flex their muscles.

Pacquiao, his new, shorter hairdo kept under a reversed baseball cap, did light fancy swinging, more of a lazy dance than a fight strut. "See you guys," Pacquiao said as he left.

Barrera later went a step duller. He stepped inside the ring in a red t-shirt and stylish worn-out jeans, took a few steps around, leaned on the ropes at least twice, then descended after flashing a victory sign.

Pacquiao, who jogged around the UNLV campus in the morning, reported for tapering duties at the IBA gym here.

Barrera, looking trim and fit, continued to train in seclusion here, lending credence to claims that he is preparing something special for Pacquiao.

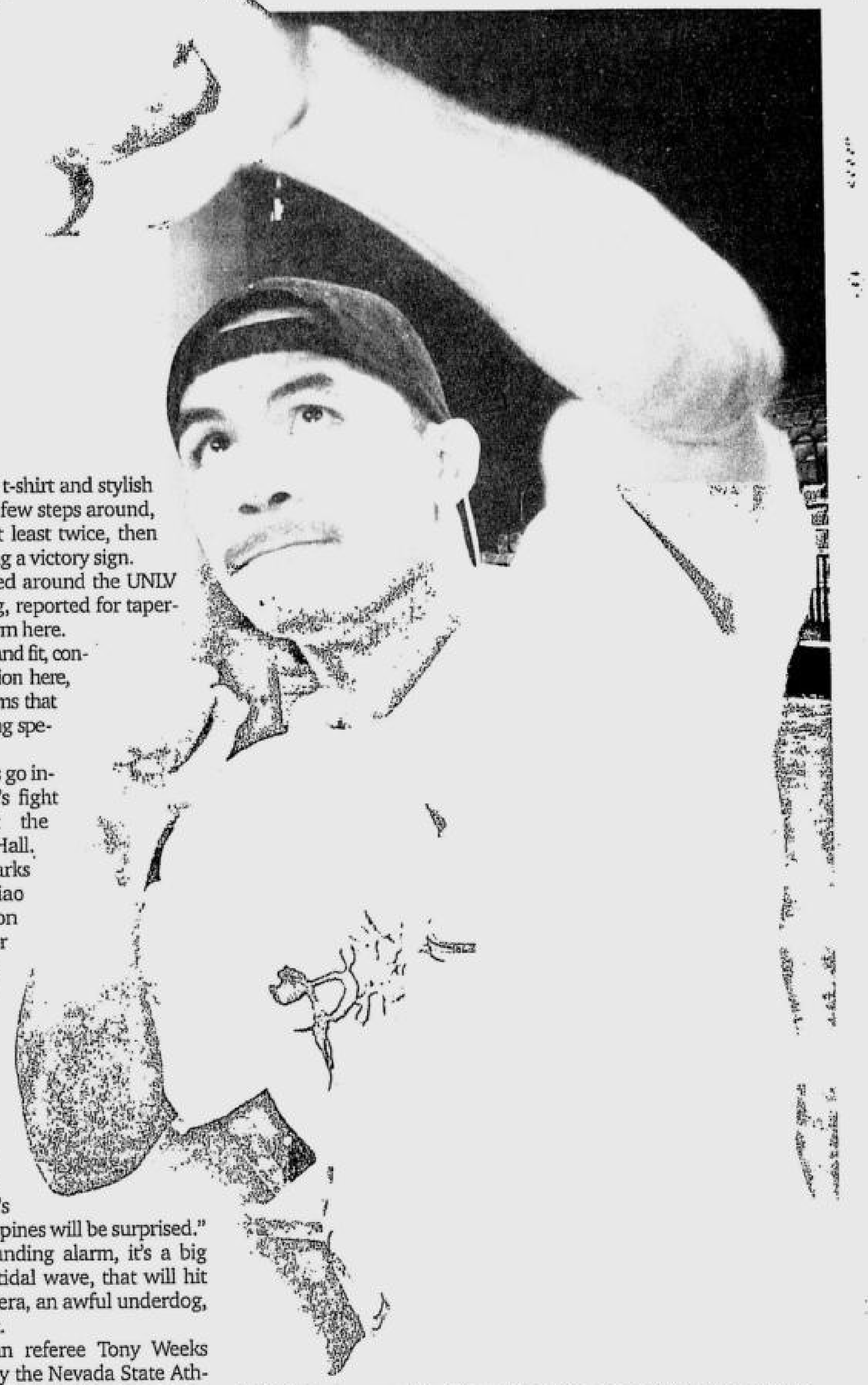
The two combatants go into full view for today's fight press conference at the House of Blues Music Hall.

Wednesday also marks the day when Pacquiao drastically cuts down on food intake in time for the official weigh-in at the Events Center Friday.

In that brief exchange with members of the Philippine media, the phrase used by the Mexican interpreter from Top Rank in mouthing Barrera's threat was "The Philippines will be surprised."

But with the resounding alarm, it's a big shock, an emotional tidal wave, that will hit the Philippines if Barrera, an awful underdog, makes good his threat.

Meanwhile, veteran referee Tony Weeks has been appointed by the Nevada State Athletic Commission to be the third man on the ring on the Pacquiao-Barrera rematch. *With a report from Salven Lagumbay, Contributor*



FILIPINO ring sensation Manny Pacquiao does a little work on the speed bag during a promotional event for his rematch against Marco Antonio Barrera at the Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas. AP

Treasure chest to Pandora's box?

By Percy D. Della

COMMENTARY

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA—IT IS A well-worn cliché—those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it.

Boxing wordsmiths are, no doubt, minting a new version of this aphorism days before Manny Pacquiao fights Marco Antonio Barrera: Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it every four years.

Almost to a person, sportswriters say Barrera is one of boxing's true legends.

Almost to a person, sportswriters are also quick to point out that the younger Manny, the sport's perpetual motion machine is too much for Marco Antonio.

Deadline beaters would not dare admit it. But with the outcome of Saturday's fight at the Mandalay Bay Resort in Las Vegas certain in their brains, their post-fight homage to the Pacman are all but written.

In Vegas, pulling one-armed bandits instead of pushing pens is probably more tempting at this point.

But what if the lesson of history is lost on Pacquiao, not on Barrera since his demolition at the hands of the Filipino ring megastar in San Antonio, Texas in 2003?

Hey, strange things happen. Remember the not too well worn saying that even the best laid plans of mice and men go oft astray?

Heaven forbid!

That our own Recah Trinidad and the rest of the boys in the press box would have to grapple with the unforeseen.

Heaven forbid!

That Barrera turns the tables on Manny, because Recah and the boys will have to sing Marco Antonio's tune. You expected the expected. Now you have to deal with the unexpected.

True. After his convincing win over Barrera that night at the Alamodome four years ago, Pacquiao has made millions beating Mexico's finest fighters, including Erik Morales, Hector Velazquez and Oscar Larios.

But Barrera is no pushover, at least not yet. After a loss to Juan Manuel Marquez, Barrera has returned from his defeat to Pacquiao by beating Paulie Ayala, Morales and Rocky Juarez twice. Besides Manny has trouble with boxer punchers. That Barrera has positioned himself as one will be known in Saturday night's 130-pound rematch.

What's also more troubling to Pacquiao than his foe's secret plan is his many distractions. He lost a political campaign and tons of money in the process. When not in the glare of boxing, he is under the klieg lights as a movie and television star, rolling with the punches of intrigue—including an alleged extramarital liaison with a starlet.

Besides, his stardom as the "national fist" did not allow him to move about without attracting adulation while training at home for this fight.

Which brings me to a lone wolf of a writer who acknowledges that Pacquiao is his country's national treasure.

But then the bold guy also says a treasure chest can turn into Pandora's box.

Heaven forbid!

Sports note: The newly elected brass of the CuyapoUSA Association are calling on members to rise up to its call for more contributions for the group's scholarship fund. The fund helps deserving high school and college kids in Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija. New president Omet Nido of Vallejo, California can be reached at: omet@cuyapousa.com.

Pacman on threat: I love surprises

By Recah Trinidad

LAS VEGAS—IT DIDN'T TAKE long for word to reach Manny Pacquiao that Marco Antonio Barrera plans a "surprise" that will "shock the Philippines" in their coming rematch at the Mandalay Bay.

It didn't take long, too, for the Filipino superstar to belittle the claim.

"He has a surprise?" Pacquiao said after the media presentation by both fighters at the site of the Oct. 6 bout here. "I'm used to surprises.

"He made sacrifices?" he added. "Sino ba ang hindi nagsakripisyo? Todo sakripisyo ako sa labang ito (Who hasn't made sacrifices? I've sacrificed everything just for this fight)."

Even promoters Oscar De La Hoya and Bob Arum agreed that Pacquiao will be more than ready for any Barrera surprise, but both warned against an overconfident Pacman stepping into the ring against the grizzled Mexican warrior.

"Pacman has tremendous speed, power and stamina," De La Hoya said. "He has the speed. He has everything to win in this fight, but he also has everything to lose. Barrera has shown he is great when the odds are stacked against him."

"I can see Manny winning this one," said Top Rank's Arum, who is co-promoting the fight with De La Hoya's Golden Boy Promotions. "He enjoys a tremendous physical edge. Barrera, however, fights like a tiger when against the wall. He's in great form."

Pacquiao is expected to get an inspirational lift with the arrival of wife Jinkee here Monday. *With a report from Salven Lagumbay*

SPORTSWATCH

Roligon stagfest up

THE SPECIAL 4-STAG DERBY OF ROLIGON MEGA COCKPIT UNFOLDS AT 4 p.m. today with more than 100 matches on top. The winners stand to receive a guaranteed prize of P500,000 put up by host Rolly Ligon. Entry fee is P8,800. Two-time world champion William Go, Junior Lagunday and Jed Ramos head today's competitors. Also in the list are Terry Santos, Moling Dorado, Noli Bautista, Bebot Reyes, Ricky Peleya, Pol Derpo, Dong Lacson, Art de Castro, Daniel Jimenez, Glen Tan, Jo Bautista, Cesar Pedraja and Ruben Rabutin. For inquiries, call 8512275, 8331638 and 8529812.

LGBA 2nd leg today

TOPNOTCH STAG-FIGHTING RETURNS TO THE LUCKY SPORTS COMplex today beginning at 4 p.m. via the second leg of the Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) Stag Derby series. Mayor Cito Alberto of Catanduanes and Joener Letada of Bulacan topped the first leg recently and lead the LGBA Gamecock Breeder of the Year race with seven points each. Meanwhile, Metro Manila cockers may join the second leg eliminations at Araneta Coliseum on Oct. 9 and 11. For details, call 09205851940.

RACING TIPS BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Tri)—On the Fairway (4), Gigi's. Rodriguez (3), Lion's Pride (2)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Banknet (4), Mischivieous (2), Queen of Gala (1), Play It Again (6)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Sutter's Royal (7), Scud Missile (6), Hazit/Coming /Magic Cue (5), Karma (8), Real Black (3)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Acquirement (7), Rain Dancer (1), Itza Lemon (2), Mr. Victory (3)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri—Batong Silyar (5), Sound of Silence (9), Pay To See (1), Saintly Path (6), Lucky Joe (4)
Race 7—(En Gedi((9), Deity (2), Mister Cool (10), Four Belles (7), Mister Cool (10), Four Belles (7), Miss Bobon/Expiditer (8)
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Quant Je Puis (10), Bull Rock (7), Baling Ganda (1), Five O'Clock (10), Shades of Red/Down Jones (8), Deep Rising/Devil Rising (9)

Benitez ready for World Cup

YOUNGSTERS JAVI BENITEZ, VENCER John Suba and Franco Reyes of Jet Racing Team gear up for their upcoming stint as the country's representatives in the 2007 ROK World Cup set Oct. 11-14 at the South Garda Karting Track in Lonato, Italy.

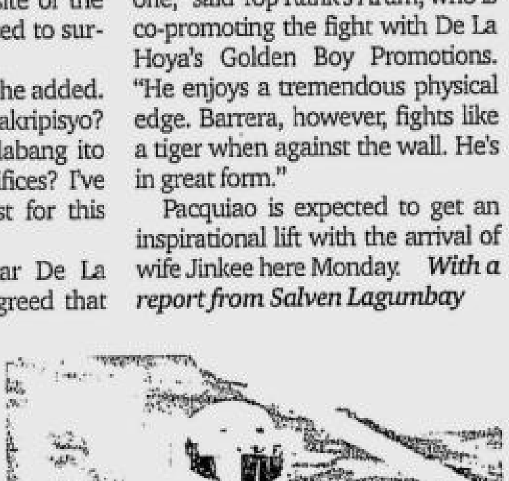
Benitez, a Grade 7 student of Xavier School, earned the right as the Philippine's No. 1 bet for the ROK Junior crown by virtue of his solo leadership in the ROK Junior division of the ongoing 2007 Shell Helix Karting Super Series.

Suba got his slot being the solo leader in the ROK Junior division of the 2007 Asian Karting Open Championship. Reyes will be competing in the Mini ROK division.

As part of the RP Karting Team, Benitez and Suba got free hotels, entry fees and airline tickets for the event.

"It's a big honor for me to represent the country and I'm very excited about this race," said Benitez.

Jet Racing head coach Elson Carpio said Benitez has strong chances against the champions of Asia and the best in the world.



BENITEZ: Big honor for me

MLTC, V. Verde top Home and Away elims

PCA's Charlie Niu returns a shot while Mike Sy looks on during their quarterfinal match against Celebrity Sports Club's Jerry Gabriel and Manny Rara in the men's 35 and above division. Niu and Sy won, 8-3.

Games on Saturday (Oct. 6)
1 p.m.—MTC @ MLTC
2 p.m.—PCA @ VVCC

MANDALUYONG LAWN TENnis Club-Mizuno and Valle Verde Country Club-Smart finished first and second after the elimination round to gain outright semis berths and the all-important homecourt advantage in the 3rd Babolat Home and Away interclub team tennis.

In the quarterfinals, Philippine Columbian Association-Fermajen ousted Celebrity Sports Club, 7-0, and Mandaluyong Tennis Club-NCMH bested Acropolis Tennis Club, 5-2, to book the last two semis slots supported by Timeforce Watches and Chris Sports.

Saturday's matches will pit No. 1 MLTC against arch rival No. 4 MTC and No. 2 Valle Verde against No. 3 PCA. The winners will face each other in the championship round with the club with the higher ranking having the homecourt edge.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Court finds NBA great Thomas guilty

THOMAS: I'm innocent REUTERS

NEW YORK—NEW YORK KNICKS COACH Isiah Thomas sexually harassed a female executive of the basketball team, a jury decided on Tuesday, and it awarded her $11.6 million in punitive damages from team owner Madison Square Garden and its chairman James Dolan.

The seven-person federal jury ruled that Anucha Browne Sanders, former marketing executive for the NBA team, was wrongly fired in retaliation for her complaints of sexual harassment.

"What I did here, I did for every working woman in America," Browne Sanders told reporters outside the courtroom after the payout was determined.

Browne Sanders, 44, was fired in February 2006 from her $260,000 a year job as a Knicks vice president, an action she said was in response to her sexual harassment complaint against Thomas.

She had accused Thomas of making unwanted advances toward her and subjecting her to verbal insults, which she said began in 2004 after he joined the team as club president. She had asked the court for $10 million in damages.

Thomas insisted afterward that he was innocent and vowed to appeal the verdict.

"I will appeal this and I remain confident in the man that I am, and what I stand for, and the family that I have," he said.

"I'm innocent. I'm very innocent. And I did not do the things that she accused me in this courtroom of doing."

Jurors were not able to decide whether Thomas should pay Browne Sanders damages, so a mistrial on that count was declared by US District Court Judge Gerard Lynch.

Under the payout, the Garden, which is owned by Cablevision Systems Corp. must pay $8.6 million and Dolan must pay $3 million.

The Garden and Dolan had countered that Browne Sanders was fired for incompetence and for interfering with its investigation of her harassment complaint.

Company officials for Cablevision were not immediately available for comment.

The trial and its outcome were the latest black eyes for a Knicks organization that has struggled competitively in recent years.

Thomas steered the Knicks to a 33-49 record last season in his first year as coach after being ordered by Dolan to take over from coach Larry Brown.

Brown, who had been signed by Thomas to a five-year $50 million contract to pilot the Knicks, posted a 23-59 record in his first season before being fired.

Reuters

Keon offers help for national games' revival

By June Navarro

KEON

SHELVED FOR A DECADE, THE REVIVAL OF the Philippine National Games took a positive turn when the Philippine Sports Commission brought in a valuable sports figure into the scene.

Former Gintong Alay chief Michael Keon agreed yesterday to help the PSC in its grassroots programs and offered to host the PNG in Ilocos Norte next summer.

Keon, now the Ilocos Norte Governor, said he would seek the support of the League of Governors in reviving the PNG, which last held in 1997 when the multi-sport event was hosted by Cebu City.

"I told them (PSC officials) I'm more than willing to help their national sports development program particularly the revival of the Philippine National Games," said Keon, who paid PSC chairman Butch Ramirez and commissioners Ritchie Garcia and Joey Mundo a visit yesterday.

Keon's commitment could also help boost the implementation of Executive Order 651, the Presidential directive designed to strengthen the country's grassroots development program.

EO 651 aims to lay down the foundation of the government's grassroots program by focusing on a handful of selected disciplines considered as medal-potential sports such as boxing, taekwondo, chess and wushu.

"The PNG is a local government unit affair so I know the League of Governors would be interested since many of them are really sports-minded," said the nephew of the late strongman President Ferdinand Marcos.

Ramirez said Keon has also agreed to host a four-day coaches' seminar and workshop with the objective of strengthening coaching at the grassroots level. Keon said a total of 90 young coaches will participate in the seminar.

Polymasters edge Mighty Filter Kings

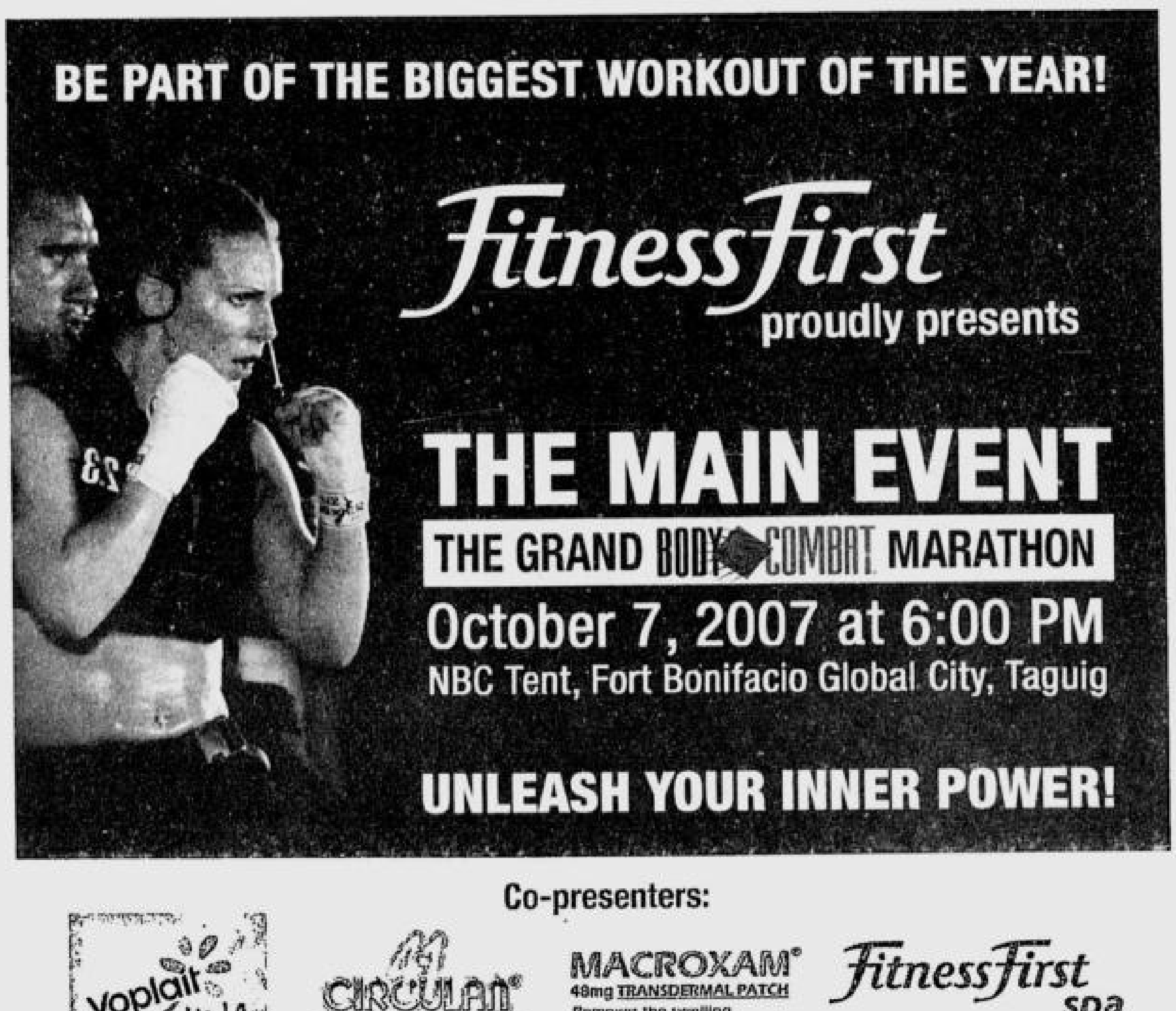
THE 2007 MBT CORporate League got off hot as Polymasters of Alex Martos and James Café beat the Mighty Filter Kings in double overtime, 88-84, Monday at the RTU gym in Mandaluyong.

Former University of the East star Braulio Lim joined forces with Ronnie Zagala and Arie Tuble in beating the Filter Kings, who missed crucial free throws that could have reversed the outcome.

Mighty Filter's Clark Torrente sent the game into first overtime by knocking in a buzzer-beating jumper while Randy Chua gave the Kings another lease on life with another tough basket down the stretch.

Unlike the Polymasters, CKP 168 had an easy time downing Paritas Trading as Marvin Poloyapoy, Howard Flor, Roel Capati and Galen Cacha combined for 32 points en route to a 100-77 win.

Other opening day winners were the Gil Floritz-owned Rusty Lopez, which clobbered Convergys, 117-96; Jas Cellphone of Scott Go, which outplayed PRC Couriers of sportsman Alex Wang, 74-66; Nougat Candy which tripped NRTP-Ninos Pride, 97-80; and PNP Shooters which nipped World Balance, 70-67.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Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
GG HAIR SALON U201 Nestor Bldg., 1578 cor. Pedro Gil St., Ermita, Manila	Jiyoung Hwang Korean	Operations Manager
CHINA GEO-ENGINEERING (PHIL.) CORPORATION 15 Mindanao St., Marina Baytown East, Aguinaldo Blvd., Parañaque City	Bing Cao Chinese	Accountant
LAIPAO INTERNATIONAL MINING CORP. Unit 503 Pearl Towers Condominium, Masangkay St., Tondo, Manila	Yanhui Zhao Chinese	Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer
LAIPAO INTERNATIONAL MINING CORP. Unit 503 Pearl Towers Condominium, Masangkay St., Tondo, Manila	Dezhou Wang Chinese	Chief Operating Officer
PGU GENERAL MERCHADISE INC. Unit 3 2/F Midland Plaza Hotel, Ermita, Manila	Choo Poh Kuan Malaysian	Senior Manager
PGU GENERAL MERCHADISE INC. Unit 3 2/F Midland Plaza Hotel, Ermita, Manila	Eng Siong Low Malaysian	Marketing Manager
ASAHI SYNCHROTECH MANILA CORPORATION 5/F ITC Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Hiroshi Murayama Japanese	Project Manager
EGG'S_PRODUCTION INC. Unit 203 Makati Executive Tower II, Cityland Square, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., cor. Madina and dela Rosa Sts., Pio del Pilar, Makati City	Kazuhiro Ishimoto Japanese	Marketing Manager
WISEMEN TRAVEL & TOURS CONSULTANCY 1234 Bambang St., cor. Abad Santos St., Tondo, Manila	Kyung Ae Oh (wife of Go) Korean	Asst. General Manager
WISEMEN TRAVEL & TOURS CONSULTANCY 1234 Bambang St., cor. Abad Santos St., Tondo, Manila	Sangjun Keum Korean	General Manager
D & F CONSTRUCTION & DEV'T. CORP. Unit 812 8/F Globe Telecom Plaza I, Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City	Youngsig Kim Korean	General Manager
GG HAIR SALON Unit 201 Nestor Bldg., 1578 Pedro Gil St., Ermita, Manila	Jihye Hwang Korean	Consultant
VIVA PRODUCTIONS, INC. 7/F East Tower, PSE Ctr., Exchange Rd., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Riza Raquel Santos Canadian	Artist
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HEAVEN'S SONG GEN. MDSE. CO. LTD. Rm. 303 434 Barraca St., Binondo, Manila	Junchao Cai Chinese	General Manager
L'AUBERGINE CORPORATION 5th Ave. cor. 32nd St., Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City	Marc Mourad Torche Swiss	Executive Chef
GULF HORIZON INTERNATIONAL SERVICES, INC. 509 Merchants Bldg., Rm. 301-302 3/F Padre Faura St., Ermita, Manila	Ali Mohamed El Hassan Abdelgadir Sudanese	Director on Overseas Marketing
MNK TRAVEL & TOURS CORPORATION Unit 1610 Antel Global Bldg., Julia Vargas Ave., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Jae Yong Jeong Korean	President
KRAFT FOODS PHILS. INC. 8378 Dr. Santos Ave., BF Homes, Paranaque City	Sudip Mall Indian	General Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC-Regional Director

(PDI-October 4, 2007)

ALBERT Pabila connects with a jab to Harry Tañamor's head on the way to scoring a huge upset.

RAFFY LERMA

Navyman upsets Tañamor

By Dennis U. Eroa

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—TWO-TIME Olympian Harry Tañamor became the second big name to fall in the 2007 Smart National Boxing Open Championships as he lost a thriller of a bout to Navyman Albert Pabila Tuesday night here.

Tañamor, a veteran of the 2000 Sydney and 2004 Athens Olympics, lost steam in the third and fourth rounds and took a stinging 2-3 setback against Pabila in their featured light flyweight clash.

"I finally beat Harry in four tries," said a delighted Pabila after the win at the Misamis Oriental provincial capitol.

A day earlier, Orlando Tacuyan Jr. of Angeles City shocked Doha Asian Games gold medalist Joan Tipon, 26-24, in their featherweight clash.

The 19-year-old Tacuyan is a member of the national training pool.

Tañamor, however, brushed aside his defeat, saying he was not in top shape.

"I'm not yet fully recovered after competing in the Czech Republic," stressed Tañamor, back-to-back gold medalist in the 2003 and 2004 Southeast Asian Games.

National coach Pat Gaspi said Tañamor lacked focus against Pabila, who is also a member of the national training pool.

"I think Harry's mind was wandering during the match," said Gaspi. "Nevertheless, Pabila's win serves as a warning to our nationals that they need to be in tip-top shape always."

The rest of the favorites stamped their class over their respective rivals, with Philippine Army's Godfrey Castro and Genebert Basadre, and Philippine Navy's Joegen Ladon winning convincingly.

Castro, an Army corporal, prevailed over a hard-fighting Jay-R Quiam of Elorde Boxing team, 8-5, to advance to the semifinals.

Basadre, on the other hand, beat Roberto Vito Del Rosario of Philippine Navy-Bago City-C via referee-stopped contest-Outclassed with 1:42 left in round one, while Ladon, silver medalist in the 2005 Manila SEAG, also outclassed hometown bet Listriano Tapcine of Misamis Oriental to reach the quarterfinals.

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Race for last Milo slots quickens; student listing up

THE 31ST NATIONAL MILO Marathon is on its final stretch.

With five qualifying races left in the season, the country's biggest and longest-running foot race is now gearing up for its grand finale on Nov. 18 at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila.

BUENAVISTA

While the centerpiece event of the finals is the 42.195-kilometer marathon where the best long distance runners from the 23 elimination races vie for the top prize of P75,000, most of the participants and enthusiasts will run in the 3K, 5K and 10K side events.

National race organizer Rudy Biscocho announced that registration is now open for students and schools. Those interested may call 727 9987 for further information.

Registration for participating schools will end on Oct. 18, 2007 when the open listing begins at the ground floor of the Vasquez Madrigal Plaza Bldg., 51 Annapolis St. San Juan.

Entry fees are P50 for the 3K kiddies run; P100 for the 5K individual entry; P50 for students with 50 or more entries in the 5K run; and P100 for the 10K race. All entries must be accompanied by a 300 grams Milo label.

Participants in the 3K run should be 6 to 12 years old, 5K and 10K run should be 13-years-old and above. Photocopy of birth certificate is required for those participating in the 3K run and must be personally submitted by their parent or guardian.

The 42K distance, which will be participated in by the likes of favorite Eduardo Buenavista, is only for the 132 provincial qualifiers and 166 Metro Manila qualifiers.

The 10K champion wins P5,000; the 5K winner gets P2,500; and the 3K Kiddies age-group top finishers get P1,500 each.

In all, over P500,000 is at stake at the grand finals of the 31st Milo Marathon held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel, Adidas and the Tourism department.

Whichever way, it's a Pumaren win

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

THE UAAP BEST-OF-THREE championship series between La Salle, coached by Franz Pumaren, and UE, coached by Dindo Pumaren, was surprisingly not in Pilo Pumaren's consciousness when I called him for a short interview yesterday.

"I haven't been to the doctor for a checkup for a long time now," Pilo replied when I asked him how he was feeling that Wednesday, which was the eve of Game One of the series.

But he was feeling OK, he assured me. His blood sugar was under control, thanks to regular exercise and the proper diet, and he found no need to check with the doctor.

***

Of course I was glad to know that the father of championship contenders Dindo and Franz was in fine health. But what I actually wanted to ask was how it felt to be in his shoes: Having two sons fighting for a much-coveted title.

Was he favoring anybody? Is he giving tips on how to win over the other?

Pilo laughed heartily. He was in very high spirits. For him the UAAP war is over. Pumaren versus Pumaren equals Pumaren. It was a win-win situation.

Pilo said there was absolutely no stress or pressure in watching this championship because the Pumarens will go home happy whichever way the wind blows.

***

But while he was impartial, or tried hard not to be, Pilo admitted that Dindo, his youngest, needed the title—his first ever—more than Franz, who has five tucked under his belt, including a "four-peat" with the Archers.

"Dindo has not won a championship yet," said Pilo, a UE alumnus whose history with the Warriors dates back to the '50s when the legendary Baby Dalupan was still coach and the University of the East was still owned by the Dalupan family.

Pilo was part of the Dalupan-mentored champion UE team. Years later he would again be part of another UE champion squad, this time as its coach.

***

"Mama will be sitting behind the La Salle bench while Papa will be rooting for Dindo and his alma mater in the UE area. For this UAAP series, the Pumaren family will be divided," said Manong Derrick, who, as official UE consultant, will be rallying behind youngest brother Dindo.

Derick, who coaches Talk 'N Text in the PBA, has helped hone the Warriors into the team it is now.

"I think both Franz and I want to finish the series right away. But it will be tough because the La Salle players have the championship experience and Franz has the track record," said Dindo.

According to Mang Pilo, for the next few days, Dindo and Franz will forget they're brothers, giving and taking no quarters in the title series.

"Galit-galit muna."

Karting super series 7th leg slated Sunday

THE 2007 SHELL HELIX KARTING Super Series stages its seventh and penultimate leg this Sunday at the Boomland Kart Track, Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) Complex in Pasay City.

Pacesetter Stefano Marcelo aims to follow up his big victory in Cebu as he hopes to prevail anew over defending champion Matteo Guidicelli of Alessandra Racing and Daniel Cleak of Birel Motorsports in the premiere Formula 125 Seniors Open.

Joining them in the combined race are Birel Motorsports' Bobby Domingo and Alessandra Racing's Alessandra Madrigal and Malco Angeles and Ken Monzones.

Also hoping for a repeat win is Oliver Aquino of Alessandra Racing in the Formula SL Expert class.

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BSP says peso to remain strong vs dollar

Urges exporters to hedge against forex risks

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL ng Pilipinas yesterday said the peso would remain strong against the dollar in the near term, whether exporters like it or not, but disadvantaged sectors could tap a wide array of hedging tools to reduce their foreign exchange risks.

"The peso is expected to remain firm for the rest of the year on the back of sustained dollar inflows from overseas Filipino remittances, portfolio and foreign direct investments and export receipts," BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said in a forum with exporters yesterday.

Guinigundo said the uptrend would continue for the rest of the year despite jitters from rising oil prices and the credit crunch in the United States or despite the BSP's occasional intervention at the spot foreign exchange market.

The peso closed at 45.14 to a dollar yesterday from Tuesday's 44.915. Traders suspected that BSP intervention prevented the local currency's further appreciation in the last few days.

"A strong peso is not the BSP's policy. Our policy has always been and will continue to be for a market-determined exchange rate, with occasional scope for official action on our part to smoothen excessive volatility in the exchange rate, and this we do whether the rate is going up or going down," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said in the same forum.

Tetangco said the volatility in asset prices, especially in the form of foreign exchange movements, could adversely affect the operations and render the investment plans of both public and private sectors highly challenging.

"Hedging could, therefore, serve as a form of insurance to help businesses reduce this type of risks so businesses could plan better and reduce volatility in

BSP SAYS/ B2

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- **Concerns weigh** on rate decision /B8

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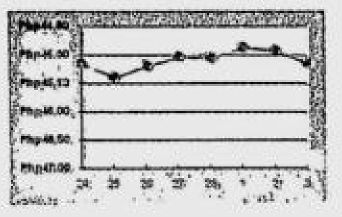

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LENOVO'S Miller talks on his extensive IT and Asia experience, having worked in various technology companies in the US, Australia, China and Singapore, during the 6th MAP International CEO Conference at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel in Makati City. RUDY ESPERAS

Lenovo to test market sub-$200 PC in RP

By Daxim L. Lucas

COMPUTER MAKER LENOVO is set break an important price barrier in the country as it prepares to introduce a personal computer aimed at entry-level users, a ranking official of the company said.

In a press briefing, Lenovo's president for Asia Pacific and Japan David D. Miller said the company would bring to the Philippines—on a test market basis—a PC priced below $200 per unit. (Less than P10,000 at current exchange rates.)

He said this would be done "within the year."

Lenovo, one of the world's fastest growing manufacturers of PCs and laptops, is the maker of the highly successful Thinkpad series of laptops which it acquired from industry giant IBM more than two years ago.

The firm has been aggressively expanding its presence worldwide, including the Philippines where it deals with clients on both the retail and wholesale basis.

Miller said the sub-$200 PC would be a device with the basic functionality required by everyday computer users.

The company is successfully selling a similar unit in the Chinese market for $190, he said.

Apart from China, he pointed out that such products are popular in rapidly growing economies like India where the demand for "competitively priced" PCs and laptops is growing.

Despite this move at the lower end of the market spectrum, the official said Lenovo would continue to emphasize its presence at "all price points" of the computer market.

Miller said the broad industry for PCs and laptops would continue to grow in the foreseeable future, but noted that growth would be skewed toward either end of the price range, depending on the level of economic development of any particular market.

In some markets, he noted that sales of low-priced computers were growing at a rapid pace, while sales of high-end laptops were actually contracting. The reverse is true, however, for more developed markets where buyers put a premium on having the latest technology.

Miller said that Lenovo continued to adapt its products to the needs of its clients in the markets it serves.

This includes manufacturing the Thinkpad laptop line using the most advanced technology or even to dropping the IBM label from its computers.

"Our clients felt it was confusing them," he said, explaining the company's move to dissociate itself from the IBM brand.

Despite being initially identified with China, the Lenovo official said the company was now more diversified in its operations and manufacturing base.

Stocks nearing all-time high, gain another 2.52%

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

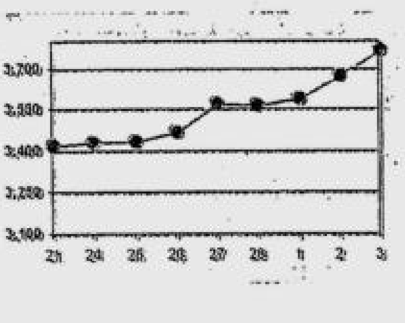
STOCK PRICES ROSE TO THEIR highest in nearly three months, buoyed by bets of a quarter-percentage-point cut in the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' key interest rate, some brokers said.

The benchmark stock market index flirted with its all-time high of 3,791.42 set last July 5 as the the local bourse played catch-up with the rest of the Asian markets that were hitting record levels.

The 29-company Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) rose sharply by 92.63 points or 2.52 percent to close at 3,769.82, its highest since July 13 when it stood at 3,786.02. The PSEi hit an intraday high of 3,783.45.

"It seems that the market is anticipating a local rate cut since the property stocks were the first to move," a local analyst said.

Total value of trades reached



P7.8 billion with 95 gainers against 34 losers.

Despite the market's growing confidence that the Bangko Sentral will slash key interest rates by as much as 25 basis points at its policy meeting today, certain Bangko Sentral officials have reportedly expressed concern over high oil and food prices.

Edgar Bancod, head of research at ATR Kim Eng Securities, said the local bourse was tailing other Asian markets, which were hitting record levels. This was in stark contrast to the the US market, which was down 40 points overnight.

"That's the irony of it all. All of a sudden, emerging markets are safe havens because the US economy is slowing down," Bancod said.

Market leaders Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) and Ayala Corp. reached new record highs.

PLDT, the country's biggest company by market value, jumped P100 to P3,040 after reaching a record high of P3,065 during the day.

"A lot of investment houses are seeing good earnings prospects for PLDT. This rally is really driven by its strong fundamentals. And this also shows the overall positive outlook for the Philippine market," said Astro del Castillo of First Grade Holdings.

Top conglomerate Ayala Corp. touched an all-time high of P610 in late trade before closing at P605, up P25 from the previous session.

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Fast Forum
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7:00 pm, Saturday, 6 October 2007

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Formula Fashion
A BMW F1 Viewing and Fashion Show
1:00 pm, Sunday, 7 October 2007

BMW Motorsport Unit

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING PUBLIC WORKS BAN AND RELEASE, DISBURSEMENT AND EXPENDITURES OF PUBLIC FUNDS IN CONNECTION WITH THE OCTOBER 29, 2007 SYNCHRONIZED BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS.
x--------------------x

Benjamin S. Abalos, Sr.	Chairman (Resigned)
Resurreccion Z. Borra	Commissioner
Florentino A. Tuason, Jr.	Commissioner
Romeo A. Brawner	Commissioner
Rene V. Sarmiento	Commissioner
Nicodemo T. Ferrer	Commissioner

Promulgated: 02 October 2007

RESOLUTION NO. 8309

WHEREAS, Sec. 3 of Republic Act No. 6679 prohibits the construction or maintenance of provincial, city, municipal and barangay-funded roads and bridges for a period of ten (10) days immediately preceding the date of elections;

NOW, therefore, the Commission on Elections, pursuant to the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code, and other election laws, has **RESOLVED** as it hereby **RESOLVES,** to promulgate, the following rules and regulations to enforce the aforementioned provision of law:

SECTION 1. Prohibition against construction or maintenance of provincial, city, municipal and barangay-funded roads and bridges. – Effective October 19, 2007 to October 29, 2007, the construction or maintenance of provincial, city, municipal and barangay-funded roads and bridges shall be prohibited, the provisions of Section 261, paragraph (v) and (w) of the Omnibus Election Code to the contrary notwithstanding.

SEC. 2. Submission to the Commission of Lists of Authorized Public Works Projects. – On or before October 11, 2007, the provincial governors, city/municipal mayors and punong barangays in relation to provincial, city/municipal and barangay public works as the case may be, shall submit to the Commission in Manila thru the provincial election supervisors/election officers concerned, certified lists of all on-going construction or maintenance of provincial, city/municipal and barangay-funded roads and bridges.

SEC. 3. Immediate payment of laborers required. – Any laborer who may have worked on the construction and maintenance of provincial, city/municipal and barangay-funded roads and bridges which have to be suspended pursuant to the ten (10) day ban shall be paid immediately his complete earned wage upon the suspension of said projects. In no case shall the earned wage or any portion thereof be retained to be paid only within five days before or on the day of the election.

SEC. 4. Injunction. – The Department of Budget and Management and the Commission on Audit, including all its field offices, are hereby enjoined not to release or authorize the release of any appropriation, or to pass in audit payments or expenditures of public funds that may directly or indirectly be used in violation of the prohibitions contained in Section 3. of RA 6679.

All field offices of the Commission, including those of its deputized agencies and citizens' arm, are directed to monitor compliance with the requirements under Sec. 2 hereof by the local executive officers in their respective jurisdictions and submit immediately to the Commission a written report on any violation of said provisions.

SEC. 5. Penalty. – Any violation of the prohibitions under this Resolution shall, consistent with Sections 261 and 264 of the Omnibus Election Code, constitute an election offense and shall be punishable by imprisonment of not less than one year but not more than six years, among other penalties provided for by law.

SEC. 6. Effectivity. – This Resolution shall take effect on the seventh (7th) day after its publication in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

SEC. 7. Dissemination. – The Education and Information Department shall cause the publication of this Resolution in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation, and shall furnish the Executive Secretary, the Chairman of the Commission on Audit, heads of all departments, and national offices, provincial governors, city/municipal mayors and punong barangays and other agencies of the government, including government-owned or controlled corporations, all registered political parties, the citizens' arm and all field offices of the Commission, copies hereof.

Resigned as of Oct 1, 2007
BENJAMIN S. ABALOS, Sr.
Chairman

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

ROMEO A. BRAWNER
Commissioner

RENE V. SARMIENTO
Commissioner

NICODEMO T. FERRER
Commissioner

(PDI – October 4, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

RULES AND REGULATIONS ON THE LIQUOR BAN IN CONNECTION WITH THE OCTOBER 29, 2007 SYNCHRONIZED BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS.
x--------------------x

Benjamin S. Abalos, Sr.	Chairman (Resigned)
Resurreccion Z. Borra	Commissioner
Florentino A. Tuason, Jr.	Commissioner
Romeo A. Brawner	Commissioner
Rene V. Sarmiento	Commissioner
Nicodemo T. Ferrer	Commissioner

Promulgated: 02 October 2007

RESOLUTION NO. 8310

WHEREAS, the Omnibus Election Code of the Philippines provides:

"**Sec. 261. Prohibited Acts.** – The following shall be guilty of an **election offense:**

xxx xxx xxx

> "(dd) xxx (1) Any person who sells, furnishes, offers, buys, serves or takes intoxicating liquor on the days fixed by law for the registration of voters in the polling place, or on the day before the election or on election day: *Provided,* That hotels and other establishments duly certified by the Department of Tourism as tourist-oriented and habitually in the business of catering to foreign tourists may be exempted for justifiable reasons upon prior authority of the Commission: *Provided, further,* That foreign tourists taking intoxicating liquor in said authorized hotels or establishments are exempted from the provisions of this sub-paragraph."

WHEREAS, violation of said prohibited acts shall be punishable with imprisonment of not less than one year but not more than six years and shall not be subject to probation, and in addition, the guilty party shall suffer disqualification to hold public office and deprivation of the right of suffrage;

NOW THEREFORE, the Commission on Elections (Commission) pursuant to the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code, and other election laws, has **RESOLVED**, as it hereby **RESOLVES,** to promulgate the following implementing rules and regulations:

SECTION 1. Prohibited Acts. – It shall be unlawful for any person, including owners and managers of hotels and other establishments to sell, furnish, offer, buy, serve, or take intoxicating liquor anywhere in the Philippines.

SEC. 2. Prohibited Period. – The liquor ban shall be in force and effect on October 28, 2007, the day before the election and on October 29, 2007, the day of the election.

SEC. 3. Exemption. – Hotels and other establishments duly certified by the Department of Tourism as tourist-oriented and habitually in the business of catering to foreign tourists may be exempted for justifiable reasons from the liquor ban, **PROVIDED** they secure prior written authority from the Commission as provided for in Section 4 hereof.

Only foreign tourists taking intoxicating liquor in said authorized hotels or establishments are exempted from the prohibition.

SEC. 4. Where to apply for and secure exemption. – Applications for exemption together with supporting documents, shall be filed with, and duly acted upon by the following:

a. The Regional Election Director of the NCR, in cases of hotels and other establishments located in the National Capital Region;
b. The Provincial Election Supervisors, with respect to hotels & other establishments located in the municipalities within their respective provinces; and
c. The City Election Officers, with respect to hotels & other establishments located within their respective cities/districts.

SEC. 5. Conditions for the grant of exemption. – Exemption may be granted only upon compliance with and submission of the following:

a.) A request/petition/application for exemption which must be under oath and which must contain a statement that the hotel/establishment operators/owners have not been convicted for an election offense;

b.) A Certification by the Department of Tourism that the requesting hotel or establishment:
   1. Is tourist-oriented and is habitually in the business of catering to foreign tourists;
   2. Is currently licensed to do business; and
   3. Has paid the required taxes and/or fees imposed by the government or any of its agencies or instrumentalities.

SEC. 6. Revocation of exemption. – The exemption granted may be revoked or withdrawn by the Commission upon petition of any interested party on showing, among others, that the reason upon which the exemption was made does not exist or is not justifiable, or that the requesting party or applicant has committed misrepresentation in the application, or introduced or submitted falsified documents.

SEC. 7. Who shall implement. – The Philippine National Police (PNP), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Regional Election Director (REDs), Asst. Regional Election Directors (AREDs), Provincial Election Supervisors (PES), Election Officers (EOs), and the COMELEC Election Law Enforcement Team (ELET), if any, which will be fielded by the Commission in specific areas, shall implement this Resolution.

SEC. 8. Effectivity. – The Resolution shall take effect on the seventh (7th) day after its publication in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

SEC. 9. Dissemination. – The Education and Information Department shall cause the publication of this Resolution in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation and shall furnish copies thereof to the Department of Tourism, Association of Hotels and Restaurants, Regional Election Directors, Provincial Election Supervisors, city/municipal Election Officers, the Philippine National Police, the National Bureau of Investigation and the Accredited Citizens' Arm of the Commission.

Resigned as of Oct 1, 2007
BENJAMIN S. ABALOS, SR.
Chairman

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

ROMEO A. BRAWNER
Commissioner

RENE V. SARMIENTO
Commissioner

NICODEMO T. FERRER
Commissioner

(PDI – October 4, 2007)

Who's afraid of education hi-tech tools?

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

WHY WAS THE CYBER EDUCATION project of the Department of Education "suspended indefinitely?"

The DepEd planned to use satellite communication to link up all public schools in the country to electronic education.

Meaning, for the sake of the action stars in the Senate, all of our 38,000 public schools would get the same high quality lectures, every day, from the best and brightest in the public school system.

The project would use technology to save our education system, which our neighbors have been using for more than 10 years now. Thailand for instance!

Here in the Philippines, the satellite system would have allowed a teacher at the Philippine Science High School who has doctorate degree in Physics to give a lecture 20 minutes a day to all the physics students in all public schools in the country.

No amount of Congress-passed budget for education can match that kind of quality instruction.

Without the satellite interconnection of the schools, that Ph.D. teacher is limited to the 40 students in the home classroom. In short, what a waste!

Yet, based on surveys after surveys, and tests after tests, our education system was already proven to be deteriorating faster than any Cabinet member could deny any involvement in the ZTE contract.

If we really need the cyber education project, why was it … well, suspended indefinitely?

The guys here in my *barangay* suspect that the project could have died from stray bullets from the gang war over the NBN project.

* * *

FROM WHAT I hear, the ZTE contract was brokered by a top figure in the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, or the FFCCCII, known as Mister "F." The guy is known to have close contacts with important people in China.

Word from our sources in Binondo has it that the same Mister "F" made a lot of money by brokering a deal at the piers, involving the checking of import shipments.

Is it not likely then that, as the broker, he also made a bundle in other government contracts, such as that between the DOTC and the ZTE.

* * *

ANYWAY, something is awfully wrong in the way this administration is reacting to the ZTE deal, particularly the scrapping of the cyber education project.

If the project has flaws, the answer is to correct them. If some people are making money out of it, the solution is simply to shoot them.

Just remember that, last year, out of the 45 countries that volunteered their education systems to be rated, the Philippines placed near the bottom in mathematics and science.

For us, time is running out.

* * *

IN THE past 13 years, the ABS-CBN Foundation, together with the Department of Education, has been producing education TV shows for elementary school subjects such as mathematics, science and English. They were just 20-minute shows, shown in almost 8,000 schools nationwide.

Recently, the foundation documented the results of those TV education shows. It used two schools in a validation test, assigning one as the experimental school that used the TV shows, and the other as the control school that did not use the program.

As expected the students in the experimental schools got significantly higher grades in the tests than those in the control school.

In science subjects, moreover, the grades of the students in the experimental schools increased by 8 percentage points after three months of educational TV shows.

Who said that TV education, using either satellite feed or canned shows, is distracting to the students? Take a bow, Loren!

* * *

ALWAYS short of budget to meet the needs of the public school system, the DepEd relaunched the adopt-a-school program.

It involves tax incentives for private entities that fund various school needs such as classrooms, computers and health care.

The launch was in September last year. Since then, the program generated some P2 billion worth of contributions for about 22,000 public schools nationwide.

It barely touched the surface, unfortunately, even with some P4.5 billion worth of pledges by the private sector for this year.

Among the donors are Intel Microelectronics Philippines, Coca-Cola Foundation, Microsoft, ABS-CBN Foundation, Megaworld, McDonalds, Aboitiz Foundation, Philippine College of Physicians (PCP) and the Philippine Medical Association (PMA).

* * *

RIDING on the hectic activity in the domestic stock market, GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia wants the pension fund to spearhead the creation of a Phisix-based fund.

My information is that the GSIS is readying P15-P20 billion of its resources to buy up - pro rata - all the issues that the Philippine Stock Exchange uses in its Philippine stock index, or the Phisix.

Under Garcia's plan, the GSIS will then list the same Phisix fund at the exchange through an IPO.

In effect, the Phisix fund offers investors a way to invest in all the index issues, without necessary pawning the homes of their mothers-in-law.

Through the Phisix fund, you can still put your stock market bet on the Phisix, if you are convinced that the market is on a general uptrend, with much less money than if you are to do it alone.

* * *

NOW THE GSIS already has the mutual fund called Kinabukasan Fund that posted a 43-percent ROI last year.

Compare that with the 1-percent yearly interest rate on savings deposits, or even the 4-percent (if you're lucky) on time deposits, and you will understand why Garcia is gung-ho about the Phisix fund.

BSP says peso …

From page B1

their cash flow," he said.

Yesterday's forum focused on hedging against exchange rate fluctuations through the use of derivatives, or financial products whose worth are based on the values of underlying commodities or indices.

"An exporter, for instance, by entering into a forward contract, could reduce the volatility of his cash flow by locking in at an agreed exchange rate the conversion of pesos of his future export earnings," Tetangco said.

But the BSP chief stressed that the competitiveness of Philippine export industries would rest on a multitude of factors, not just the level of exchange rate.

"To help develop the export sector, other factors need to come into play, including the improvement of key areas such as power and transportation infrastructure, as well as new technologies and manpower skills," Tetangco said.

"Moreover, market intelligence and promotion activities and enhanced market access could capture improved market share for Philippine firms," he said.

Gokongwei firm acquires Iloilo sugar mill

URC to become RP's 2nd largest sugar mill, refiner

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

UNIVERSAL ROBINA CORP., the snack food and beverage company of the Gokongweis, yesterday said it had bought the manufacturing assets of Passi (Iloilo) Sugar Central Inc.

The acquisition makes URC the country's second largest sugar milling company, next to Victorias Milling Corp.

Covered by the deal were Passi's two sugar mills with a combined capacity of 8,000 tons per day. Passi, which is the largest sugar producer in Panay, is owned by the Consing family of Iloilo.

"This purchase, together with the expansion of our Sonedco mills and refinery, will catapult URC to become the country's second largest sugar mill and refiner," URC president Lance Y. Gokongwei said in a statement.

URC operates sugar mills and refineries in Cagayan Valley in Luzon (Cagayan Robina Sugar Milling Corp.); Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental (Southern Negros Development Corp.), and Manjuyod, Negros Oriental (Universal Robina Milling Corp).

These plants have a combined milling capacity of 17,000 tons of canes per day and a total refining capacity of 17,000 of 50-kilogram bags per day.

In its fiscal year 2006, URC produced about 166,000 metric tons of raw sugar and 1.7 million 50-kg bags of refined sugar.

URC is currently increasing Sonedco's milling capacity by 4,000 tons of cane per day. This will be completed this month. It recently commissioned a new refinery in Sonedco to raise its refining capacity by 15,000 50-kg bags per day.

URC is one of the largest branded food companies in the Philippines. It went into sugar milling and refining to support its food and beverage manufacturing business.

It is a subsidiary of JG Summit Holdings Inc., one of the country's most diversified conglomerates with businesses in property development, telecom, air transport, petrochemicals and financial services.

Ortigas firm to build ₱2-B KPO campus

By Riza T. Olchondra

ORTIGAS AND COMPANY IS building a P2-billion KPO campus and P12-billion residential complex in the Ortigas area to take advantage of the ICT and property boom, CEO Rex Drilon II said at the sidelines of the Management Association of the Philippines CEO conference.

Drilon said the KPO or knowledge process outsourcing campus would be built across Tiendesitas while the P12-billion residential complex will rise just off Libis.

These projects, he said, were expected to attract enough tenants to include a retail component.

He said the company was funding the projects with internally generated cash, adding, however, that was open to entering a joint venture arrangement with another group.

The projects are in line with the company's announcement last year that it was pursuing the redevelopment of the Ortigas area to raise property values and enhance its status as a premiere business district of Metro Manila.

Drilon said then that the company had hired the services of the Palafox and Associates to prepare a master plan to transform Ortigas Center into "transport-oriented, pedestrian-friendly, mixed-use" business center.

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
A Global Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Heart

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
ITB NO.: 09-10-2007 ACF

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is inviting all interested car manufacturers / dealers in its forthcoming public bidding for the project stated hereunder:

Name of Project : Supply and Delivery of Two (2) Lots Brand New Service Vehicles for Airport Casino Filipino

Item	Approved Budget	Bidding Fee
Lot 1 – Two (2) Units 2.5L Diesel 11-Seater Van	Three Million Pesos (Php 3,000,000.00)	One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php1,500.00)
Lot 2 – Two (2) Units 4.0L Full-Sized Van	Four Million Pesos (Php4,000,000.00)	Two Thousand Pesos (Php2,000.00)

Source of Fund : Internally Funded

Only suppliers duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered suppliers must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila., Tel. No. 526-0573.

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	October 04, 2007 – October 22, 2007
2. Pre-Bid Conference	October 11, 2007 (2:00 pm)
3. Submission of Bids	October 23, 2007 (2:00 pm)
4. Opening of Bids	October 23, 2007 (2:00 pm onwards)

Complete details of the project are indicated in the **bid documents** which will be available to prospective bidders at the BBAC Secretariat, Branch Procurement and Property Office, Airport Casino Filipino, Parañaque upon payment of a non-refundable bidding fee as stated above. In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BBAC Secretariat.

PAGCOR assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

PAGCOR reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Please address all communications to the BBAC Secretariat, Branch Procurement and Property Office, Airport Casino Filipino, Parañaque, Tel No.: 854-1557.

(Sgd.) ANGELITO G. DE LEON
Vice Chairperson, BBAC ACF

(PDI – October 4, 2007)

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Department of Agriculture invites qualified bidders/suppliers to participate in the bidding of **"one (1) unit Extraction - Heating Unit & one (1) unit Vertical Loading Portable Sterilizer" with an Approved Budget Contract PhP1,100,000.00.**

Bid documents shall be available at the BFAR Property Section starting **October 09, 2007** upon payment of non-refundable fee in the amount of Php500.00.

Eligibility documents, technical and financial proposal in three envelopes must be submitted to the BFAR-BAC Secretariat, PCA Compound, Diliman, Quezon City, not later than **2:00 p.m.** on **October 22, 2007** and shall be opened on the same time and date in the presence of the participating bidders.

For more information, please call the BAC/Secretariat at Tel. No. 426-3168.

This Office reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated by the BAC is the most advantageous to the government. The BAC asumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, or does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) MALCOLM I. SARMIENTO, JR.
Director

(PDI - Oct. 4, 2007)

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Mandaluyong [illegible] | Manila [illegible] | [illegible]

DITO KA MABUBULOK.
Lahat ng pirata ng software kulong. Pati ikaw.
PILIPINAS ANTI-PIRACY TEAM

The Optical Media Board (OMB) embarks on this campaign in support of the Intellectual Property Rights Month this October. The OMB is tasked to regulate the manufacture of optical media in all its forms and impose fines and penalties for its illegal reproduction.
For more information, visit www.omb.gov.ph

Pilipinas Anti-Piracy Team (PAPT) is the government–led organization composed of the Philippine National Police (PNP), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and the Optical Media Board (OMB). PAPT sternly enforces the rule of law and makes sure all lawbreakers are reprimanded.
For more information, visit www.papt.org.ph.

Petrolift raising ₱3.5B from share offer

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

OIL AND GAS tanker firm Petrolift Inc., said late Tuesday that it has filed an application with corporate regulators to raise P3.5 billion through a public offering.

In a statement, Petrolift said its applications with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) entailed the sale of 457 million shares, consisting of 326.25 million new shares and 130.5 million existing shares.

The shares to be listed account for 25 to 35 percent of the total issued and outstanding capital stock of the company after the initial public offering.

BDO Capital and Investment Corp. has been tapped as the issue manager and lead underwriter for the planned IPO.

Proceeds from the offering will be used by the company to acquire tanker vessels, upgrade its existing fleet of tankers to double-hull, and purchase dry bulk carriers and heavy equipment for mining logistics.

"Petrolift currently has the biggest number of double hull-compliant tankers in the country. The IPO would provide the company more flexibility to upgrade its existing fleet, as well as enter into other profitable and viable markets," Petrolift said in a statement.

Petrolift and its subsidiaries are engaged in the business of providing oil and gas tanker services, allied marine services, and logistics support for mining and other related industries. It is touted as an industry leader in the Philippine oil and gas tanker industry having pioneered in applying world-class standards to modernize the domestic tanker fleet.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 3, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	5.5	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc	9.1	9.3	9.1	9.3	54,000
73	39	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	61.5	64	61	63.5	2,275,200
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	67.5	69.5	67.5	69.5	2,245,300
748	504	China Banking Corp.	710	720	710	710	5,450
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank, Inc	0.44	0.48	0.44	0.48	5,810,000
75.5	40	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	57	58.5	56.5	58	7,694,800
65.5	33	Philippine National Bank	49.5	51.5	49.5	51.5	192,000
68	41	Philippine Savings Bank	62	62.5	62	62.5	2,000
39.57	15	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	27	28	27	28	1,463,200
90	49.5	Security Bank Corp.	78	78.5	78	78.5	150,500
66	43.52	Union Bank of the Philippines	55	55	55	55	177,200
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.76	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	3.95	3.95	3.9	3.9	70,000
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.84	1.86	4,703,000
16.25	4.15	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	12.25	12.25	11.75	12	228,700
1.6	0.4	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	220,000
42	29	First Metro Investment Corp.	42	42	41	41	6,000
1,820.00	1,560.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,820.00	1,820.00	1,820.00	1,820.00	690
5	2.95	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.7	3.7	3.65	3.7	9,161,000
3.1	1.02	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	2	2	2	2	600,000
1,005.00	232	The Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc	780	865	780	860	22,580
2,350.00	1,945.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,330.00	2,330.00	2,330.00	2,330.00	340
1.94	1.3	iVantage Corp	1.6	1.62	1.6	1.6	365,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	5.6	5.8	5.6	5.8	7,958,000
0.57	0.23	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.32	0.34	0.32	0.34	1,440,000
70.5	49	First Gen Corp.	68	68	66	66.5	1,511,100
92	50	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	80.5	84	80	83	638,800
16	8.8	Manila Water Co. Inc.	15.5	15.5	15	15.5	2,710,100
105.45	17.5	Manila Electric Co.	86.5	88	86.5	87.5	2,740,400
7	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	6.7	6.8	6.6	6.8	27,591,000
6.5	3.9	Petron Corp.	6	6.2	6	6.2	8,824,000
14.75	6.6	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	7.5	7.8	7.5	7.5	206,000
2.5	1.7	Salcon Power Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	3,000
1.9	0.99	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp	1.3	1.36	1.3	1.34	1,717,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	3.2	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.1	624,000
2.95	1.66	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	1.78	1.78	1.76	1.76	2,007,000
61	35	Jollibee Foods Corp.	52.5	53.5	52.5	53	1,507,400
9.1	4.95	Pancake House Inc.	8	9.1	8	9.1	76,000
0.98	0.43	RFM Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	770,000
3.85	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.5	2.5	2.48	2.5	255,000
80	59	San Miguel Corp. "A"	63	64	62.5	62.5	225,400
88	59.5	San Miguel Corp. "B"	64.5	65.5	64.5	65	465,200
4.7	2	Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4	4.3	4	4	17,000
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	16	16	15.75	15.75	5,037,000
0.55	0.26	Vitarich Corp.	0.37	0.42	0.37	0.39	1,040,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	1.87	EEI Corp.	4.5	4.7	4.5	4.7	1,033,000
9.2	4.9	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.4	8.7	8.4	8.6	3,112,000
7	1.46	Republic Cement Corp.	4.1	4.3	4.1	4.3	103,000
2	0.28	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc	1.26	1.34	1.24	1.32	20,880,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.75	Chemrez Technologies Inc	4.25	4.4	4.25	4.4	2,523,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.125	Picop Resources Inc	0.41	0.42	0.41	0.42	16,580,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	2.06	A. Soriano Corp.	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	100,000
0.17	0.025	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.12	0.11	0.12	116,680,000
1.28	0.22	APC Group Inc.	0.85	0.89	0.85	0.86	22,690,000
3.6	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	63,000
0.018	0.007	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	132,100,000
0.019	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "B"	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	9,000,000
9.7	5.2	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	7.1	7.3	7.1	7.3	3,812,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.016	0.019	0.016	0.018	979,900,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.9	36,561,000
1.38	0.52	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	50,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.36	2.4	2.36	2.4	1,070,000
610	375	Ayala Corp.	580	610	580	605	1,266,340
15.25	7.22	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	13.75	13.75	13.5	13.5	7,300
5.8	1.22	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.3	4.6	4.3	4.5	8,945,000
10.25	3.75	DMCI Holdings Inc.	9	9.1	9	9	563,000
6.9	1.08	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	4.1	4.4	4.1	4.35	385,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp	6.2	6.5	6.2	6.4	1,604,000
3.55	1.26	House of Investments Inc.	2.02	2.08	2.02	2.08	281,000
14.5	6.2	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	11	11.25	11	11.25	312,300
5.9	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	1.78	1.82	1.78	1.82	150,000
0.95	0.195	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	40,000
11.5	1.1	Multitech Investments Corp.	6	6.6	6	6.2	8,747,000
8.5	2.8	PAL Holdings Inc.	8.1	8.5	8	8.5	7,275,000
0.215	0.01	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.185	0.19	0.18	0.185	101,650,000
1.54	0.72	Prime Media Holdings Inc.	0.79	0.79	0.78	0.78	130,000
0.75	0.18	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	700,000
2.1	1.2	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	5,000
452.5	237.84	SM Investments Corp.	382.5	395	382.5	390	852,670
0.73	0.125	Sinophil Corp.	0.43	0.45	0.43	0.44	32,650,000
1.6	0.9	South China Resources Inc.	1.44	1.48	1.44	1.44	521,000
23	1	TKC Steel Corp.	18.25	18.25	18.25	18.25	1,500
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.38	4,510,000
1.1	0.26	Zeus Holdings Inc	0.7	0.75	0.7	0.72	860,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	0.96	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.48	1.5	945,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings, Inc	7.9	8	7.6	8	144,000
19.25	11.25	Ayala Land Inc.	16.75	17.25	16.5	17.25	9,173,700
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.22	1.34	1.22	1.32	9,857,000
4.7	2.65	Cebu Holdings Inc.	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.5	665,000
2.9	1.3	Cityland Development Corp.	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88	4,000
0.86	0.31	Crown Equities Inc.	0.66	0.67	0.66	0.67	830,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.51	0.51	4,130,000
0.99	0.52	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.77	0.79	0.77	0.79	16,950,000
0.47	0.05	Ever Gotesco Resources and Hold'gs Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.27	7,490,000
1.48	0.61	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.3	1.36	1.3	1.32	32,268,000
2.44	1.26	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.84	1.96	1.84	1.88	75,028,000
3.3	2.16	Highlands Prime Inc.	2.6	2.65	2.6	2.6	408,000
1.12	0.24	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.6	0.63	0.6	0.62	4,500,000
4.4	1.73	Megaworld Corp.	3.85	4.15	3.85	4.1	106,663,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.35	165,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	220,000
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.54	0.62	0.54	0.62	10,670,000
23	12.5	Robinson Land Corp.	18.25	19.5	18	19.25	4,192,800
5.9	1.52	SM Development Corp.	4.6	4.65	4.6	4.6	1,219,000
13.5	6.64	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11.75	12.5	11.75	12.25	15,841,800
3.25	1.08	Shang Properties Inc.	2.4	2.42	2.4	2.42	66,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.68	0.71	0.68	0.71	2,320,000
0.49	0.08	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	740,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	5.1	5.4	5	5.4	65,672,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	16.5	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	32	32	32	32	21,600
11.75	8.7	GMA Network Inc.	9.5	9.5	9.3	9.3	621,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc	1.42	1.5	1.42	1.5	5,223,000
1,545.00	1,055.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,515.00	1,545.00	1,510.00	1,540.00	175,850
3,065.00	2,150.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,970.00	3,065.00	2,970.00	3,040.00	234,830
7.9	4.5	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	7.2	7.3	7.1	7.3	8,042,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.21	5,940,000
12	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	5,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	9.1	9.2	8.9	9.2	9,024,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.045	0.048	0.044	0.044	265,400,000
29.5	8	Imperial Resources Inc. "A"	16.25	16.5	16.25	16.5	1,600
0.32	0.043	Island Information and Technology Inc.	0.185	0.195	0.185	0.195	24,550,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.26	1.28	1.26	1.28	302,000
0.0725	0.03	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.055	0.0575	0.055	0.0575	1,364,700,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc.	2.55	2.7	2.55	2.55	3,057,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.42	1.46	1.42	1.42	63,000
6.8	3.5	Asian Terminals Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.9	571,000
40	16.5	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	37	40	37	39	589,900
2.16	0.93	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	2	2	2	2	29,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	3.05	3.25	3.05	3.25	1,022,000
6	2.16	Manila Jockey Club Inc.	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	101,000
4.55	2.8	Philippine Racing Club Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	60,000
0.98	0.3	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.68	0.68	1,180,000
1.2	0.42	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	120,000
		EDUCATION					
950	650	Far Eastern University Inc.	825	825	825	825	80
3.7	2.6	iPeople Inc.	3	3.15	3	3.15	403,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	1.94	Macroasia Corp.	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.7	396,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	12.75	13	12.5	12.75	407,500
30	11.25	Paxys Inc.	13	13.5	13	13	2,859,300
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	198,700,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.8	159,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.8	155,000
21.25	7.7	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	16	16.25	15.75	16	1,692,300
14.25	8.9	Benguet Corp. "A"	12.25	12.75	12.25	12.75	50,700
5	1.8	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	3.1	3.3	3.1	3.3	28,000
3.1	0.51	GEOGRACE Resources Philippines Inc.	2.5	2.8	2.48	2.75	158,642,000
0.37	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.34	0.36	0.34	0.35	35,760,000
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.38	6,860,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	272,900,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.031	0.032	0.031	0.032	75,000,000
30	1.2	NiHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	18	21	18	20.25	5,548,300
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	102,400,000
8.5	3.45	Philex Mining Corp.	8.1	8.4	8.1	8.3	9,630,000
43	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	34.5	36	34.5	36	251,300
1.36	0.39	United Paragon Mining Corp.	1	1.06	1	1.06	6,833,000
1.8	0.56	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.3	1.36	1.28	1.32	4,495,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.36	0.37	0.35	0.36	13,690,000
0.029	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A"	0.026	0.029	0.026	0.028	1,156,900,000
0.03	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B"	0.027	0.03	0.027	0.029	527,300,000
11.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	9.6	11	9.6	10.75	614,000
0.031	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.028	0.031	0.028	0.03	2,010,600,000

	AVERAGES		VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	946.89 UP	13.97	35,447,260	888,229,685.00
Industrial	4,770.44 UP	23.17	111,594,400	1,015,501,510.00
Holding Firms	2,181.44 UP	61.94	1,473,480,610	1,600,334,630.00
Property	1,750.97 UP	61.25	400,162,300	1,582,899,290.00
Service	1,819.99 UP	55.93	1,750,503,660	1,761,747,510.00
Mining & Oil	7,859.11 UP	126.78	4,588,208,600	811,707,790.00
All Shares Index	2,346.38 UP	51.07		
PSEi	3,769.82 UP	92.63		
		GRAND TOTALS	8,359,396,830	7,660,420,415.00

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE

CURRENCIES

October 3, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.706564	1.000000	44.8340
Japan	Yen	0.006103	0.008637	0.3872
United Kingdom	Pound	1.443016	2.042300	91.5645
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.091034	0.128841	5.7765
Switzerland	Franc	0.601280	0.850991	38.1533
Canada	Dollar	0.708335	1.002506	44.9464
Singapore	Dollar	0.476764	0.674764	30.2524
Australia	Dollar	0.624725	0.884173	39.6410
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.875120	2.653857	118.9830
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.189067	0.267587	11.9970
Brunei	Dollar	0.475161	0.672495	30.1506
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000078	0.000110	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.022346	0.031626	1.4179
UAE	Dirham	0.192419	0.272331	12.2097
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.415300	63.4536
Korea	Won	0.000774	0.001095	0.0491
China	Yuan**	0.094023	0.133071	5.9661
Denmark	Kroner	0.134157	0.189872	8.5127
India	Rupee	0.017820	0.025221	1.1308
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.207629	0.293858	13.1748
New Zealand	Dollar	0.536902	0.759878	34.0684
Sweden	Kroner	0.108394	0.153410	6.8780
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021690	0.030698	1.3763

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Oct. 2, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen.
** Asian time closing rate as of Oct. 2, 2007

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Fisheries sector seen growing 8-10% in Q4 due to aquaculture

By Amy R. Remo

THE BUREAU OF FISHERIES and Aquatic Resources expects an 8-10 percent growth in the fisheries sector in the fourth quarter, due mainly to the sustained growth of the aquaculture industry.

BFAR Director Malcolm I. Sarmiento Jr. said in a briefing yesterday that the fourth quarter will be characterized by more harvests and production from the aquaculture subsector due to the Christmas season.

"Most operators target end November to December to harvest *tilapia, bangus* and prawns due to the seasonal growth in demand," he explained.

Sarmiento said that in 2006, aquaculture accounted for 47 percent of total fisheries production.

This was a big jump from the sector's 15-percent contribution back in the '80s.

With the sustained growth of the subsector, Sarmiento said BFAR was expecting fisheries production to hit 4.8 million metric tons this year, and 5.3 million metric tons in 2008.

Earlier, Sarmiento said it was possible for the industry to produce 5 million MT, on the assumption that the government will allot an additional P170 million to its 2007 budget.

This is also based on the assumption that there would be no natural disasters or disease outbreaks.

Last year, fisheries production reached 4.4 million metric tons.

In 2003, the country ranked eighth in the world in terms of fisheries production.

"The additional budget will be used mostly for production enhancement and hunger mitigation projects," Sarmiento said.

One of its programs is the establishment of more mariculture parks from the current 25, most of which are in the Visayas.

IMI to expand to Russia, Asia

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

INTEGRATED MICROELECTRONICS Inc., the electronics subsidiary of Ayala Corp., is finalizing plans to expand to Eastern Europe and Vietnam.

IMI president Arthur Tan said on the sidelines of the Management Association of the Philippines International CEO conference yesterday that IMI was looking at either building a new manufacturing plant abroad or forming joint ventures in Russia and Vietnam.

"Vietnam is one of the countries in our (expansion) horizon for our product services," Tan said in a briefing.

IMI recently expanded its manufacturing capacity with a 12,500-square-foot facility in Shenzhen, its fifth plant in China.

In the Philippines, IMI recently acquired 14,000 square meters of new space at its Laguna manufacturing hub.

Tan also said IMI was reviewing a plan to "list by introduction" the company's shares on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Listing by introduction does not require a public offer since the company's shares are already widely held.

"We thought we'll do that this year, but we don't need to tap the capital market right now. But it would give strategic investors a vehicle to come in," Tan said.

IMI is eyeing revenues of over $400 million this year and is confident it will meet its target of $500 million in revenues next year.

Net income growth, however, is expected to slow down due to the strong peso.

IMI posted a 4-percent growth in revenues to $199 million in the first half but higher general and administrative expenses related to its integration projects from the acquisition of Speedy-Tech, resulted in a 30-percent decline in net income during the period.

Speedy-Tech has operations in China.

Forum Energy seeks investors for coal assets

By Abigail L. Ho

FORUM ENERGY PLC, THROUGH local arm Forum Energy Philippines Corp., is now in talks with prospective investors for its coal assets in Cebu.

In a statement posted on the company's official website, Forum chair Alan Henderson said the company was keener on reserving its cash for the expected conversion of its geophysical survey and exploration contract (GSEC) 101 into a service contract rather than actively pursuing coal prospects.

"The prime activity in the coal contracts has been the extension of exploration activities following some unexpected core results, which required confirmation of the geological model prior to further investment in order to secure the necessary returns. This has now been completed to satisfaction," he said.

"However, with the positive results on GSEC 101 and the determination to conserve capital to take advantage of a variable timeline in the award of the service contract, the company is in the process of marketing the proven coal assets to more quickly capitalize on the resource and is in discussion with a number of interested parties," he added.

Forum subsidiary (GSEC 101) Ltd. has entered into a joint venture with Monte Oro Resources and Energy Inc. for the development of GSEC 101.

Under the agreement, Monte Oro will secure a 30-percent interest in GSEC 101.

Forum, meanwhile, holds two coal operating contracts.

According to the company, its Balamban-Naga (Central Cebu) and Dalaguete (South Cebu) coal areas have proven and probable coal reserves of 4.9 million tons.

The Central Cebu contract consists of two sets of two coal blocks spanning 4,000 hectares.

The South Cebu contract, on the other hand, is composed of two sets of two coal blocks covering almost 2,720 hectares.

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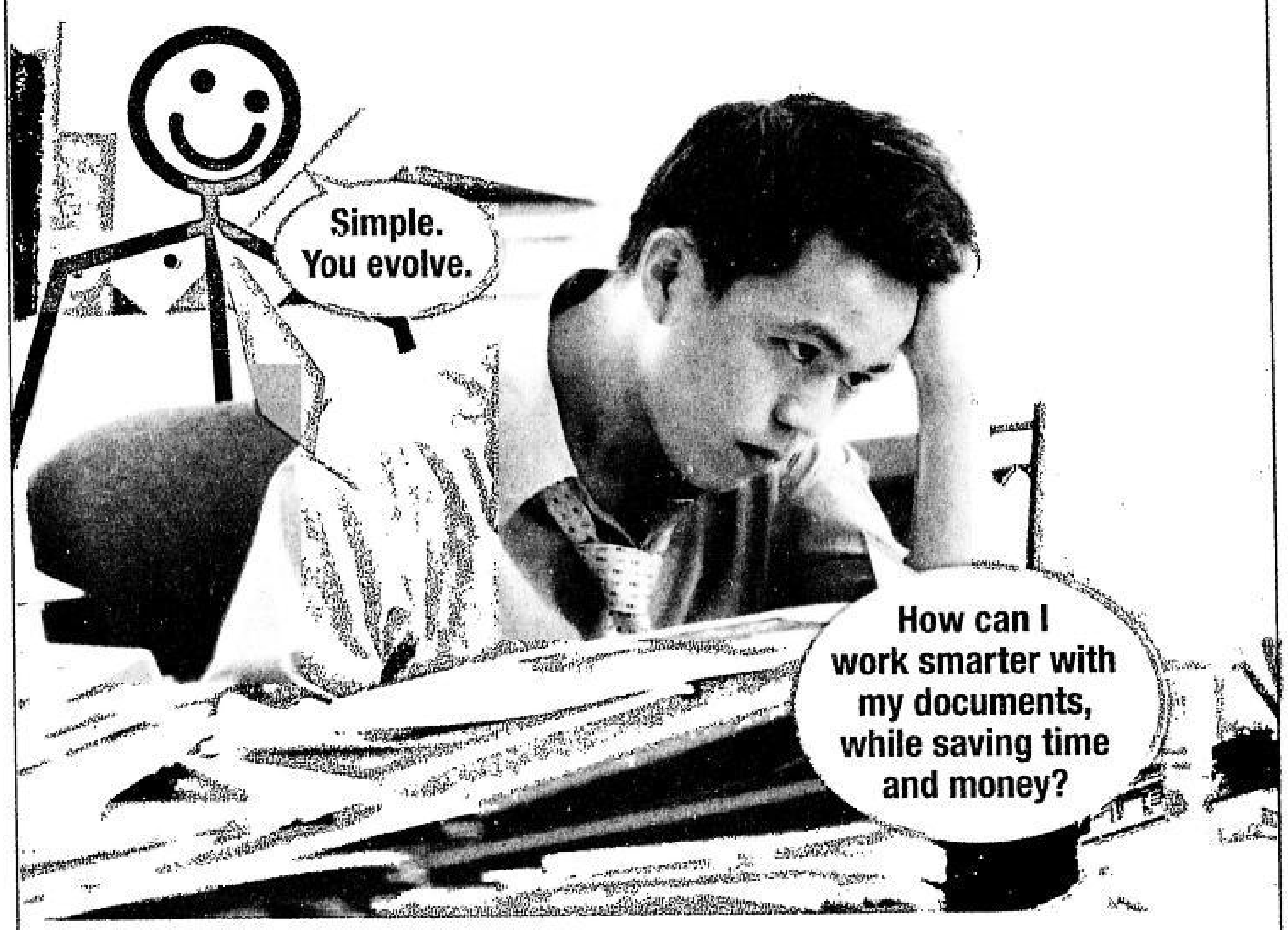
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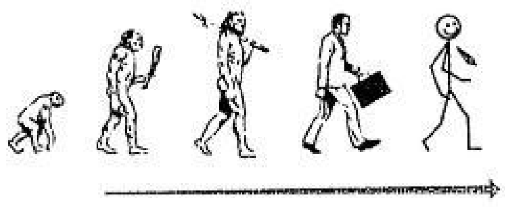

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Republic of the Philippines

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Regional Office I
San Juan, La Union

E-mail Address : nfa-region1@sflu.com
Fax No. : (072)242-59-07 & (072)242-59-08
Website : nfa.gov.ph
Tel No. : (072)242-59-09 & (072)700-25-79

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF TRUCKING/HAULING SERVICES IN THE DISPERSAL OF MORE OR LESS NINETY EIGHT THOUSAND (98,000) BAGS OF IMPORTED RICE (IMR) FROM STAGING WAREHOUSES IN LA UNION TO THE RECEIVING WAREHOUSES OF THE DIFFERENT PROVINCES IN REGION 1 (STAGE II)

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY-Regional Office I, San Juan, La Union invites all interested Trucking/Hauling Operators to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of Trucking /Hauling Services for more or less 4,900 MT or 98,000 bags Imported Rice for the year 2007 covering the following specific routes:

LOT NO.	SOURCE WAREHOUSES	DESTINATION PROVINCE	MINIMUM TRUCK REQMT	VOLUME	RATE/ BAG	TOTAL ABC
1	Obar	Abra	1	3,000	17.500	52,500.00
2	San Juan GID	Benguet	6	29,000	21.120	612,480.00
3	Panicsican	Benguet	6	29,000	21.120	612,480.00
4	Panicsican	Ilocos Norte	3	12,000	28.338	340,060.00
5	Panicsican	Ilocos Sur	5	25,000	14.819	370,475.00
	Total		**21**	**98,000**		**1,987,995.00**
				Add: 12% VAT		**238,559.40**
				GRAND TOTAL		**2,226,554.40**

All truck units must be registered as "Trucks for Hire" (TH) with the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB). The prospective bidder may bid in any or all preferred destinations upon payment of a non-refundable application fee of Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00)

The issuance of bid documents, pre-bidding conference and bidding proper shall be conducted at NFA-Regional Office I Conference Room, San Juan, La Union on the following schedules:

ACTIVITIES	DATE	TIME
1. Issuance of Bidding Documents	Oct. 3-8, 2007	8:00 am – 5:00 pm
2. Pre-Bidding Conference	Oct. 9, 2007	1:00 pm
3. Deadline of Submission of Eligibility Requirements/Bidding Proper	Oct. 22, 2007	1:00 pm

Eligibility criteria includes, among others that the value of the prospective bidder's single largest contract for the last two (2) years, adjusted to current prices, completed within the period and similar to the contract to be bid, must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the Approved Budget for the Contract of the project to be bid.

Bidding shall be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using the non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184) otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Prospective bidders must be registered with NFA or may apply for registration until October 8, 2007 at the Licensing Section of the NFA provincial offices where their businesses are situated.

The NFA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to waive any formalities or defects found therein or to accept such bids or to award to any contractor whose bid is considered most advantageous to the NFA and/or to the Government or to declare the bidding a failure prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. BASILIDES TACO**
Assistant Regional Director and
RBAC Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 4, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Regional Office I
San Juan, La Union

E-mail Address : nfa-region1@sflu.com
Fax No. : (072)242-59-07 & (072)242-59-08
Website : nfa.gov.ph
Tel No. : (072)242-59-09 & (072)700-25-79

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF HANDLING SERVICES FOR MORE OR LESS 1,413,300 BAGS OF GRAINS IN NFA-REGION 1

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY-Regional Office I, San Juan, La Union invites all interested CARGO HANDLERS and/or LABOR SERVICES CONTRACTORS to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of HANDLING SERVICES for more or less 1,413,300 bags of grains for the last quarter of 2007 as follows:

LOT NO.	NFA OFFICE/ PROVINCE	ESTIMATED VOLUME TO.BE HANDLED (Bags)	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC) - PhP
1	ABRA	4,100	15,170.00
	BENGUET	159,100	604,580.00
	ILOCOS NORTE	70,200	266,760.00
	ILOCOS SUR	28,500	108,300.00
	LA UNION	653,500	2,483,300.00
	EAST PGS	187,400	712,120.00
	WEST PGS	310,500	1,179,900.00
TOTAL		**1,413,300**	5,370,130.00
ADD: 12% VAT			644,415.60
ABC			**6,014,545.60**

The issuance of bid documents, pre-bidding conference and bidding proper shall be conducted at NFA-Regional Office I, San Juan, La Union following the hereunder schedule:

ACTIVITIES	DATE	TIME
1. Issuance of Bidding Documents	October 4-9, 2007	8:00 AM-5:00PM
2. Pre-bidding Conference	October 10, 2007	10:00 AM
3. Deadline of Submission of Eligibility Requirements/ Bidding Proper	October 23, 2007	10:00 AM

Eligibility criteria includes, among others, that the value of the prospective bidder's Single Largest Contract for the last two (2) years, adjusted to current prices, completed within the period and similar to the contract to be bid, must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of the project to be bid.

Bidding shall be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using the non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184) otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bid documents may be obtained personally or by an authorized representative upon presentation of proof of Registration from DTI or DOLE and upon payment of a non-refundable application fee of **P10,000.00**.

The NFA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to waive any formalities or defects found therein or to accept such bids or to award to any contractor whose bid is considered most advantageous to the NFA and/or to the Government or to declare the bidding a failure prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. BASILIDES TACO**
Assistant Regional Director and
RBAC Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 4, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given to the public that MAPFRE INSULAR INSURANCE CORPORATION policy forms were lost:
mc-cv-ch-14551 to 14553, mc-cv-ch - 14555 to 14563, mc-cv-ch - 14565 to 14574, mc-cv-ch - 14576, mc-cv-ch - 14578 to 14584, mc-cv-ch - 14586-14589, mc-pc-ch - 1494, mc-pc-ch - 1495
The foregoing policy forms are hereby void; any transaction involving any of the said policy forms shall not be honored by and shall not bind MAPFRE INSULAR INSURANCE CORPORATION.
(PDI – October 4, 2007)

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DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES

OFFICE OF THE PHILIPPINE NAVY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Bonifacio Naval Station, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Repair of Various Philippine Navy Vessels

1. The Armed Forces of the Philippines, through the **CY 2007 Maintenance Repair Program**, intends to apply the sum as stated below being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the following Philippine Navy Projects. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

Nomenclature/Activity	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Time		Price of Bid Documents (non-refundable)
		Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline for Submission/ Opening of Bids	
Lot 2 Repair of Turbocharger of Port Main Engine of PS-35	Php 2,062,000.00	October 5, 2007 9:00 AM	October 17, 2007 9:00 AM	Php 3,000.00
Lot-3 Machinery Repairs of PG-370	Php 2,079,000.00			Php 3,000.00
Lot-4 Machinery Repairs of LC-550	Php 2,937,000.00			Php 3,000.00
Lot-5 Overhauling of Starboard Main Engine of LC-551	Php 10,913,000.00			Php 6,000.00
Lot-6 Drydocking and Other Related Repair of PS70	Php 12,305,000.00			Php 6,000.00

2. The Armed Forces of the Philippines now invites Eligible Bidders for the **Repair of Various Philippine Navy Vessels.** Delivery of the goods being procured and description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II and Section III of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from PN BAC and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from ***8:00 AM to 5:00 PM*, Monday to Friday.**
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of *Mentioned in Para 1*. The method of payment will be *in the form of cash*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. The *Armed Forces of the Philippines* will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested parties on ***October 5, 2007, 9:00 AM*** at **Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee, Bonifacio Naval Station, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.**
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before ***October 17, 2007, 9:00 A.M.*** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of Surety Bond or Manager's Check. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
7. **Bid opening shall be on *October 17, 2007, 9:00 AM* at Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee, Bonifacio Naval Station, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee
BNS, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
*Contact Person: **CDR GLICERIO P VILLANUEVA PN***
Cel Nr: 0917-8599-434 / 0918-2016-522
Tel Nr: 616-8218, 815-3420, 843-4416 & 815-8093 local 6341

(Sgd.) **ADRIANO V MUNAR JR**
CAPT PN (GSC)
Chairman, PNBAC

(PDI--October 4, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Center for Health Development – Bicol
BICOL MEDICAL CENTER
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Naga City
Telephone Nos. (054) 473-89-36
E-mail Address: bac_bicolmed@yahoo.com.ph
Fax No. (054) 473-89-36
Website: Website: http//www.doh.gov.ph//bmc-index.htm

Invitation to apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER**, through **General Appropriations Act** intends to apply specified sum for the following projects:

a) **Project : Procurement of Various Laboratory Supplies & Reagents (Re-bid) (IAEB No. 2007-21) (GAA 2007 & 2008)**

Approved Budget for the Contract : **TWO MILLION NINE HUNDRED FIFTY-EIGHT THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE & 17/100 PESOS (PhP 2,958,825.17)**
Sale of Bid Documents : October 4 to 10, 2007
Pre-Bid Conference : October 10, 2007 – 9:00 A.M. BMC Library
Submission of Bids : October 22, 2007 – 8:00 to 9:00 A.M. BMC Library
Opening of Bids : October 22, 2007 – 9:00 A.M. BMC Library
Price of Bid Documents : ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (PhP1,500.00)

b. **Project : Procurement of Janitorial Services for C/Y 2008 (IAEB No. 2007-22)**

Approved Budget for the Contract : **FIVE MILLION PESOS ONLY (PhP 5,000,000.00) (GAA CY 2008)**
Sale of Bid Documents : October 4 to 11, 2007
Pre-Bid Conference : October 11, 2007 – 9:00 A.M. BMC Library
Submission of Bids : October 23, 2007 – 8:00 to 9:00 A.M. BMC Library
Opening of Bids : October 23, 2007 – 9:00 A.M. BMC Library
Price of Bid Documents : TWO THOUSAND PESOS (PhP2,000.00)

c. **Project : Procurement of Security Services for C/Y 2008 (IAEB No. 2006-23)**

Approved Budget for the Contract : **THREE MILLION PESOS ONLY (PhP 3,000,000.00) (GAA CY 2008)**
Sale of Bid Documents : October 4 to 11, 2007
Pre-Bid Conference : October 11, 2007 – 2:00 P.M. BMC Library
Submission of Bids : October 23, 2007 – 1:00 to 2:00 P.M. BMC Library
Opening of Bids : October 23, 2007 – 2:00 P.M. BMC Library
Price of Bid Documents : ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (PhP1,500.00)

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

2. The **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER** now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the above stated projects. Delivery of Laboratory Supplies & Reagents are stated in the schedule of requirements. Security and Janitorial Services will be effective beginning January 1, 2008 until December 31, 2008.

The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **8:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon; 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.**, except weekends and Holidays.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents for each project may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee as stated above. The method of payment will be in the form of Cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address, date and time stated above. The bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following forms, in the amount of at least equal to and not lower than a percentage of the ABC or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.
   1. **Cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit (1% of ABC)**
   2. **Bank Guarantee (1.5% of ABC)**
   3. **GSIS Surety Bond (2.5% of ABC)**

   Late bids shall not be accepted.
7. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders' representative/s who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Contact Address : BICOL MEDICAL CENTER, Concepcion Pequeña, Naga City
Telephone Nos. (054) 473-8936 • E-mail Address: **bac_bicolmed@yahoo.com.ph**
Fax No. (054) 473-8936 • Website: **http://www.do.gov.ph/bmc/index.htm**

Contact Person JENSY S. ONG, MD, FPOA • BAC Chairman

(Sgd.) **JENSY S. ONG, MD, FPOA**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – October 4, 2007)

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07 URVAN ESCAPADE
10 HOURS
P1,800
WITH DRIVER
7878776/7964377
09213497170

ANIB donates P100K to NFAEA

ALYANSA NG INDUStriyang Bigas, Inc. (ANIB) donates P100,000 to National Food Authority Employees Association (NFAEA) to finance the education of children of NFA employees who are taking agriculture courses.

ANIB sponsored 'Swing for a Cause' golf tournament held at the Veterans Golf Club in North Avenue, Quezon City recently, proceeds of which is the donation to the NFAEA.

ANIB is a non-stock, non-profit organization of grains businessmen whose primary aim is to alleviate the plight of the rice industry in the country. The NFAEA, meanwhile, is an association of NFA employees nationwide headed by national president Roman M. Sanchez.

Lecture on effective approaches to Orthodontics set Oct. 10

DENTISTREE AND American Orthodontics teamed up again to bring you "The Next Step: Orthodontic Appliances and Self-Ligating Brackets" a three-hour lecture seminar featuring non-conventional but highly effective approaches to Orthodontics to your practice to the next level. The seminar will be held at the Seminar Room B, World Trade Center on Oct. 10, from 10 am to 1 pm. Pre-registration is now ongoing, and is already inclusive of the seminar kit, raffle ticket, lunch, and registration to the 4-day NADTI Convention and Trade Exhibition. The lecture will be conducted by Dr. Bayani G. Enriquez, Orthodontic Preceptor and founder of the Academy of Orthodontics.

For more information, contact 02-9264526 or 02-456-0590 or visit Dentistree's website at www.dentistree.com

PSTD convention is back on Oct. 24

THE PHILIPPINE Society for Training and Development's 33rd National Convention will be held on Oct. 24-26, at the Taal Vista Hotel, Tagaytay City.

With this year's theme, "Building People, Deepening Values, Strengthening Relationships: Key to Performance and Results," PSTD shows you how your organization can get and stay ahead.

Calling all Training and Development Managers/ Supervisors, HR Consultants, Trainers and all those who possess the penchant for rich learning and training.

Take home all new and innovative ideas at very reasonable rates.

Join and witness the PSTD 33rd National Convention as it comes once again this 2007 with new exciting and fabulous surprises and learning!

For information and registration, call 8139072 or 8140372; email pstdsecretariat@yahoo.com or secretariat@pstd.org; or check out www.pstd.org.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Philippine Sugar Center Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. (02) 454-0254
Website: www.nfa.gov.ph

NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR YELLOW CORN ALLOCATION

The NFA announces the importation of 70,000 metric tons yellow corngrains and inviting all interested corn users who want to avail of the corn allocation to submit to NFA Letter of Intent (LOI) not later than **October 10, 2007** and should be guided by the following:

1. The quality specification is yellow corngrains equivalent to US Grade No. 2 and 3 or better.
2. Arrival of the corn imports will be not later than December 31, 2007.
3. A P0.50/kg service fee and another P0.50/kg Corn Development Fund (CDF) shall be charged by the NFA.
4. The NFA selling price shall be based on the Cost and Freight (C & F) of the commodity. All incidental cost in the unloading of the cargo from the vessel shall be for the account of the end-users/buyers.
5. The 70,000 MT yellow corn shall be distributed by allocation to legitimate corn users registered with the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI).
6. The volume of allocation per category shall be as follows:

Category	%Allocation
Hog Raisers	30%
Poultry Raisers	35%
Feedmillers	35%

7. All interested corn users shall submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) which shall include the following:
   - A. Volume to be purchased
   - B. Preferred disport either Manila, Subic or Mariveles
   - C. Category of the applicant

   LOI must be supported by a BAI Certification for the year 2007 issued by BAI-Animal Feeds Standard Division, Diliman, Quezon City and a copy of the Board Resolution authorizing the individual to transact business for and in behalf of the Company/Corporation. All requests that do not contain the above requirements shall be rejected.
8. LOIs shall be submitted to the Marketing Operations Department (DMO) NFA Central Office, 4th Flr. Philippine Sugar Center Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or to the nearest NFA Branch Office by the interested corn buyers. The LOI must be received by the NFA branch office within the stated period and indicated the date and time it was received. Copies of the LOIs from the province may be faxed to the Marketing Operations Department.
9. The maximum volume to be allocated to the corn user shall be based on their three (3) months corn consumption requirements as reflected in the BAI certification.
10. Corn users shall be given until the close of office hours of October 10, 2007 to submit their Letter of Intent (LOI).
11. A Commitment Fee/Performance Bond equivalent to P1.50/kg of the total volume allocated shall be paid by the corn user within three (3) days from the issuance of the Notice of Allocation. Payment shall be in Cash, Manager's or Cashier's Check at NFA Central Office, Philippine Sugar Center Bldg., North Ave., Diliman, Quezon City.
12. Full payment of the corn allocated to the buyers plus the P0.50/kg service fee and the P0.50/kg Corn Development Fund (CDF) shall be undertaken within three (3) days upon issuance of the Notice of Payment. The Notice of Payment shall reflect the final selling price of NFA. If the country of origin of the corn is ASEAN/ASIAN (Thailand, China), the Notice of Payment shall be issued upon NFA's receipt of the notice of completion of vessel loading. If the corn is from other sources other than ASEAN/ASIAN countries (US, Argentina) the Notice of Payment shall be issued upon receipt of the shipping documents by the NFA.
13. The NFA reserves the right to reject any or all offers, to waive any defects or informalities found therein and accept only such offers which in its judgement are most reasonable and advantageous to the Government.
14. For further details you may secure a copy of the General Guidelines on the Importation and Disposition of Yellow Corngrains at the Marketing Operations Department, 4th Floor, Philippine Sugar Center Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or you may call at Tel. Nos. 426-0569; 454-1214; 453-3900 local 4223; 982-3800 loc 4223.

(Sgd.) **JESSUP P. NAVARRO**
Administrator

(PDI - Oct. 4, 2007)

NATIONAL
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More Classified Ads:

DOLE-NCR **A23**
Supreme Court of the Philippines **A18**
DOLE-RegIV **A18**
COMELEC **B2**
PAGCOR **B3**
Bureau of Fisheries &
Aquatic Resources **B3**

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice in hereby given that **ENTREX, INC.** has been dissolved. If you have any valid claims against said company, please contact (Rizza B. Blanco) at Tel. No. (5269443)

(PDI - October 4 - 24, 2007)

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice in hereby given that **Liberty Aviation Corporation** has been dissolved. If you have any valid claims against said company, please contact (Rizza B. Blanco) at Tel. No. (5269443)

(PDI - October 4 - 24, 2007)

DCB TRADING INCORPORATED
based in Subic Bay is in urgent need of high caliber individual to join our team.

We are looking for **one (1) Sales and Marketing Officer - International**

Criteria:
- Graduate of Accounting, Management and Mechanical Engineering
- 3 years of related foreign marketing work experience on automobiles
- fluent in Nihonggo, Sri lankan and English
- Excellent communication skills

Interested applicants may directly apply and/or submit their resumé to the address indicated below:

DCB TRADING INCORPORATED
Human Resources Department
Lot 2 EMS Area, 14th Gate, Perimeter Rd., Subic
Bay Freeport Zone, Zambales
Telefax No.: (047) 252-8040

Enjoy Our
ALL-DAY WAGYU SPECIAL!!!
ON October 8 - 12, 2007 (Mon - Fri)

NIHONBASHI-TEI
Izakaya & Steak House

Japan Wagyu Beef Rib Eye Steak (150g) Set Menu
(mixed veggies, soup and rice are included)
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HURRY!! LIMITED for FIRST 100 GUESTS ONLY

Try also our:
US Rib Eye Steak 150g Set Menu for P500.00
LIMITED for FIRST 300 GUESTS ONLY
HURRY!!
800 Arnaiz Avenue Makati City
Tel. no.: 818-6857/818-6807

We're open
2nd Floor Steak House
11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. & 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Ground Floor Izakaya
11a.m. to 3 p.m. & 5 p.m. to 2 a.m.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **FAR EAST SEAFOOD, INC.** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as New Export Producer of Fresh and Processed Tuna and Other Marine Products on a Non-Pioneer Status, with project site located at Davao Fish Port Complex, Lizada, Toril District, Davao City.

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **RUDY B. CAÑA**
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI--October 4, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION
Makati City

ZENAIDA CAPABLANCA VDA. DE GONZALES,
Petitioner,
-versus-
SHIP SHOP, INC., represented by MARIANO VITO, JR. (HRD Manager),
Respondent.
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM,
Intervenor.
x-------------------------------------x

SSC Case No. 10-15573-03

NOTICE OF RESOLUTION

TO : MARIANO VITO, JR.

GREETINGS:

Notice is hereby given that on the 16th day of August 2007, a **RESOLUTION**, consisting of five (5) pages, was promulgated in the above-mentioned case, the disposition portion of which reads as follows:

"**WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED**, this Commission finds, and so holds, that petitioner Zenaida C. Gonzales is the one entitled to the SS funeral benefit of her son, the late SSS member Charlie C. Gonzales.

Accordingly, the SSS is directed to immediately pay the petitioner the funeral benefit of Charlie C. Gonzales, subject to its existing rules and regulations, and to inform this Commission of its compliance herewith.

SO ORDERED."

SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION

(PDI - Oct. 4, 2007)

PSALM
POWER SECTOR
ASSETS & LIABILITIES
MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation ("*PSALM*") Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee ("*Committee*") invites interested parties to participate in and bid for the privatization of the following:

Plant Equipment, Components, Auxiliaries, and Accessories of the Manila Thermal Power Plant and the Underlying Land located at Isla de Provisor, Paco, Manila

(the "*Asset*"). The Asset is being sold on an "*as is where is*" basis, and includes the land underlying the Asset.

Interested parties must submit a Letter of Interest ("*LOI*") to the Committee which shall state the full name, address, telephone and fax number of the interested party, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. All LOIs must be received by the Committee at the PSALM Office, with address at the 7th Floor, Bankmer Building, 6756 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, not later than 5:00 p.m. on 10 October 2007 (the "*LOI Submission Deadline*"). Only interested parties that submit an LOI by the LOI Submission Deadline shall be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

As a prerequisite to the receipt of the Bidding Package, interested parties shall execute a Confidentiality Agreement and an Undertaking pursuant to Section 78 of RA 9136, both in the forms provided by PSALM, and pay a non-refundable fee in the amount of Five Hundred U.S. Dollars (U.S. $ 500.00) (the "*Participation Fee*"). The Participation Fee shall either be in cash, manager's check or cashier's check. All bank charges, if any, shall be for the account of the interested party. The Confidentiality Agreement, Undertaking, and Participation Fee must be received by the Committee on or before 5:00 p.m. on 12 October 2007 to entitle an interested party further participation in the privatization of the Asset.

The Bidding Package, which included the Bidding Procedures shall be issued during office hours (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) from 8 October until 19 October 2007 at 5:00 p.m. (the "*Deadline*") at the PSALM Office. Only interested parties who have been issued the Bidding Package by the Deadline or consortium (as described below) will be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

Interested parties that submit the LOI must be the party that will participate in the privatization process, submit a bid and enter into the pertinent agreements. Once an interested party submits the Confidentiality Agreement and Undertaking and pays the Participation Fee, such interested party may no longer be substituted in the privatization process, except through a consortium in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Bidding Procedures, among the requirements of which are (i) such interested party must own at least a majority of the shares outstanding and entitled to vote in such consortium; (ii) the consortium must be a juridical entity; and (iii) a letter requesting to bid through consortium must be submitted to the Committee on or before the deadline set for the same in the Bidding Procedures.

The schedule of the bidding activities shall be as follows:

Due Diligence	4 October to 12 December 2007
Pre-bid Conference	24 October 2007
Bid Submission Deadline	19 December 2007, 12:00 noon at the PSALM Office

References to the dates and times in this notice shall be based on Manila time. Should any of the above dates fall on a holiday, the deadline shall be extended to the same time of the immediately succeeding business day in Makati City.

A two-envelope bidding system will be adopted. Interested parties will be required to post a bid security equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the bid price in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit, which must be acceptable to the Committee. The bid security of the winning bidder shall be substituted by a performance security to guarantee prompt, faithful and complete performance of its obligations under the transaction. The details of the privatization of the Asset are contained in the Bidding Package.

Letters of Interest, Confidentiality Agreements and Undertakings shall be addressed and submitted to: The Chairman, Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee, PSALM Corporation, 7th Floor, Bankmer Building, 6756 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines. Inquiries and clarifications shall be addressed to Mr. Froilan A. Tampinco at the PSALM Office or at telefax number (632) 892-6029, or e-mail address fatampinco@psalm.gov.ph.

The Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any interested party or bidder or proposals or bids therefrom, or any part thereof, and/or to waive any defects contained therein and accept the offer advantageous to the Government, without offering any reason whatsoever. It does not assume any obligation to compensate or indemnify parties for any expense or loss that they may incur as a result of their participation in the privatization process, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made. Finally, it reserves the right to modify, supplement, or change the Bidding Procedures and other aspects of the privatization process at any time, including the schedule and the venue provided herein, for any reason whatsoever and without giving prior notice. Interested parties and/or bidders will be notified subsequently of such modifications, supplements, or changes.

(Sgd.) **ANGELO T. REYES**
Chairman
PSALM Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI– October 3, 4 & 5, 2007)

WANTED QUALIFIED TELEPHONE OPERATOR
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& other SWISS SWATCHES
JEWELRY
DIAMONDS
BEST PRICE
SPOT CASH
8341572
8316712

OBITUARIES

"To everything there is a season,
a time for every purpose under heaven."
Ecclesiastes 3:1

Engr. Froilan Tarray Cantara

Now peacefully rests in the infinite grace
and goodness of the Lord
on the 27th day of September, 2007
at the age of 70 years, 11 months and 22 days

His loving wife **Rosy B. Azupardo**;
daughters **Roscef**, **Fraulein**, **Rosylan**, and **Frances**;
son-in-law **Andro Juanito**; relatives and friends
request the pious readers to pray
for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state
at 10 Siping Street, Legazpi City.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 6, 2007,
2:00 p.m., at the Legazpi Catholic Cemetery.

The Ateneo de Manila High School Class of 1956

announces with great sorrow
the demise of its beloved classmate

Angel "Lito" Tinio Domingo

*Lito departed this life to join his wife **Agnes***
on September 30, 2007 leaving behind
*his loving children **Mia** and **Marga**,*
*brother **Ben**, in-laws, and other relatives.*

He also leaves behind our fond memories
Of a gentle, generous and handsome classmate
In whose spacious Singalong house
We celebrated our first dancing parties.

Interment will be today, October 4th at the
Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina, after the 9:00 a.m.
Mass at the Santuario de San Antonio.

Gaudioso "Guding" Espiritu Lapiña

October 27, 1932 - September 22, 2007

His bereaved wife **Rosalinda**, children, **Nancy & Gerry Dela Cruz**, **Precy & Ones Caraos**, and **Jess & Cynthia Lapiña**, grandchildren, **Marie & Sonny Dela Cruz**, **Patrick**, **Ann** (†), **Paulo & Perry Caraos**, and **Jesson Lapiña**, brothers & sisters, **Naty** (†), **Kanor**, **Tilde**, **Abling** (†), **Inding** (†), **During**, **Piling**, and **Curing**, and relatives & friends request for prayers for his eternal repose.

His remains lie in state at 817 Saturday St.,
St. Joseph's Village, Bacoor, Cavite.

Interment will be on October 7, 2007, Sunday, at Eternity Memorial Park, Kaingin, Bacoor, Cavite after the 1:00 PM Mass at St. Michael the Archangel Church, Poblacion, Bacoor, Cavite.

"Be at rest once more, O my soul, for the Lord has been good to me."
— Psalm 116:7

ELEAZAR SARMIENTO TOLLEDO SR.

who peacefully joined his Creator on October 1, 2007
at the age of 69.

His bereaved wife **Nilda**; children **Laurenti**, **Ortolani**, **Eleazar Jr.**, **Konstantin**, **Augusto** (†), **Ma. Petrona**, and **Karl**; son-in-law, daughters-in-law, and grandchildren request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at #038, Makisig St., Lena Subdivision, Dalandanan, Valenzuela, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Sunday, October 7, 2007 at Valenzuela Memorial Park.

BUSINESS

Concerns weigh on rate decision

Regulator walking on tightrope

By Daxim L. Lucas

AFTER THE US FEDERAL RESERVE surprised financial markets worldwide with a bigger-than-expected interest rate cut last month, local pundits spoke in near unison of the belief that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) will move in the same direction.

In the ensuing days, the foreign exchange, bond and stock markets moved with the expectation that the central bank will cut its own overnight rates by at least a quarter of a percentage point.

What a difference two weeks make.

As of yesterday, the number of financial market practitioners who believe that the BSP will choose not to adjust rates—once an insignificant minority opinion—had grown in number enough to challenge conventional wisdom.

For many people, the debate is esoteric. But the effects on the economy are profound.

"The decision of the central bank [today] will affect the economy up to 12 or 18 months into the future," said ING Bank's chief investment officer Paul Joseph Garcia. "The effects of any move would be felt into 2009."

Indeed, what the central bank's Monetary Board will decide on today will help determine how fast the Philippine economy will grow, how fast the peso will appreciate against the US dollar and how fast the prices of goods and services will rise.

However, growing hesitation as to whether the central bank will indeed cut interest rates by 25 basis points is coming from bank treasurers and traders.

Aware of the increasingly divided opinion, many of them would not speak on the record except to echo the pro-rate cut official lines of their institutions.

Privately, many of them believe that the BSP will rather adopt a wait-and-see attitude and verify first if the threat of inflation down the road has indeed been contained, especially with world oil prices still near record highs.

Unicapital Securities research head Ron Rodrigo believes that it is this threat of rising prices which is foremost on the minds of policymakers at the central bank.

"Many are asking themselves, 'Is it really necessary to cut now?'" he said, adding that the effects of a premature rate cut could be aggravated by a sudden spike in world oil prices, resulting in a "double whammy" for local prices. And faster inflation could easily kill off economic growth.

For ING's Garcia, the situation is a "no brainer."

"We are enjoying the best of both worlds right now," he said. "We have high economic growth and low inflation."

If it wanted to, he said, BSP could even afford to walk in step with the US Fed and cut rates by as much as half a percentage point.

From the mixed signals offered by central bank officials in recent days, it seems clear that any monetary policy loosening would be more muted, perhaps even in the form of language that promises a future rate cut, while holding headline rates steady for now.

With financial markets having already priced in a rate cut, however, a less than generous stance on the part of the BSP may take the wind out of the current rally, especially in the stock market.

"It would be bad for equities if they didn't cut, because that has been discounted already in recent weeks," Unicapital's Rodrigo said.

Nonetheless, he acknowledged that the BSP is in a tight fix given the need to weigh concerns of economic growth vis-a-vis controlling prices.

"It has always been a balancing act for BSP," he said. "And it is a difficult one now."

MANSMITH AND FIELDERS, INC.
November and December 2007 Course Offerings

JOSIAH GO'S 70TH MARKETING STRATEGY AND PLANS
NOV. 6-7, 2007 (8:30 A.M. TO 5:30 P.M), MANDARIN ORIENTAL HOTEL, MAKATI CITY
A must-attend high-intensity seminar for all marketing practitioners!

10 REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND THIS SEMINAR:
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4th Strategic Marketing : Analyzing Industry and Opportunities
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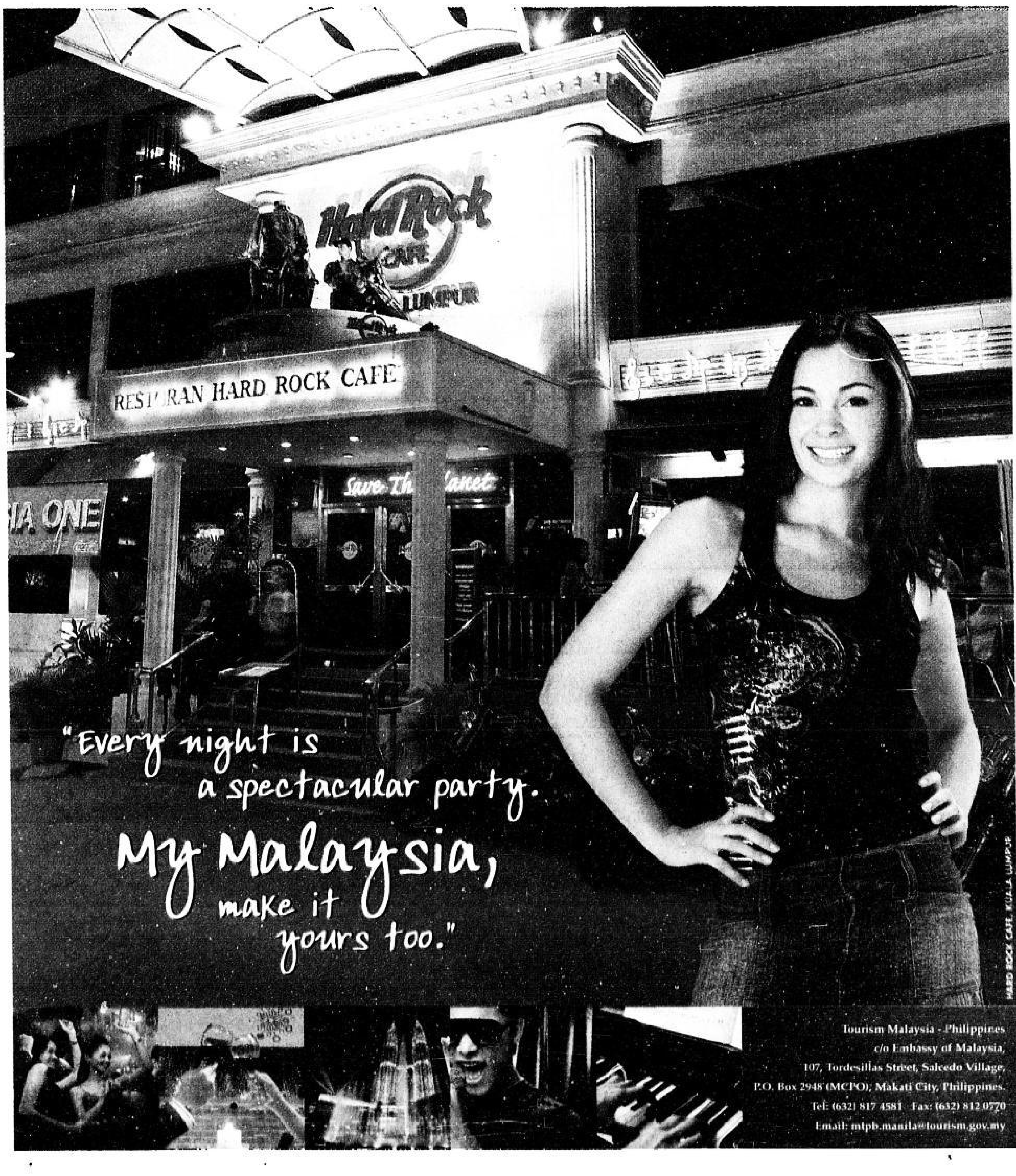

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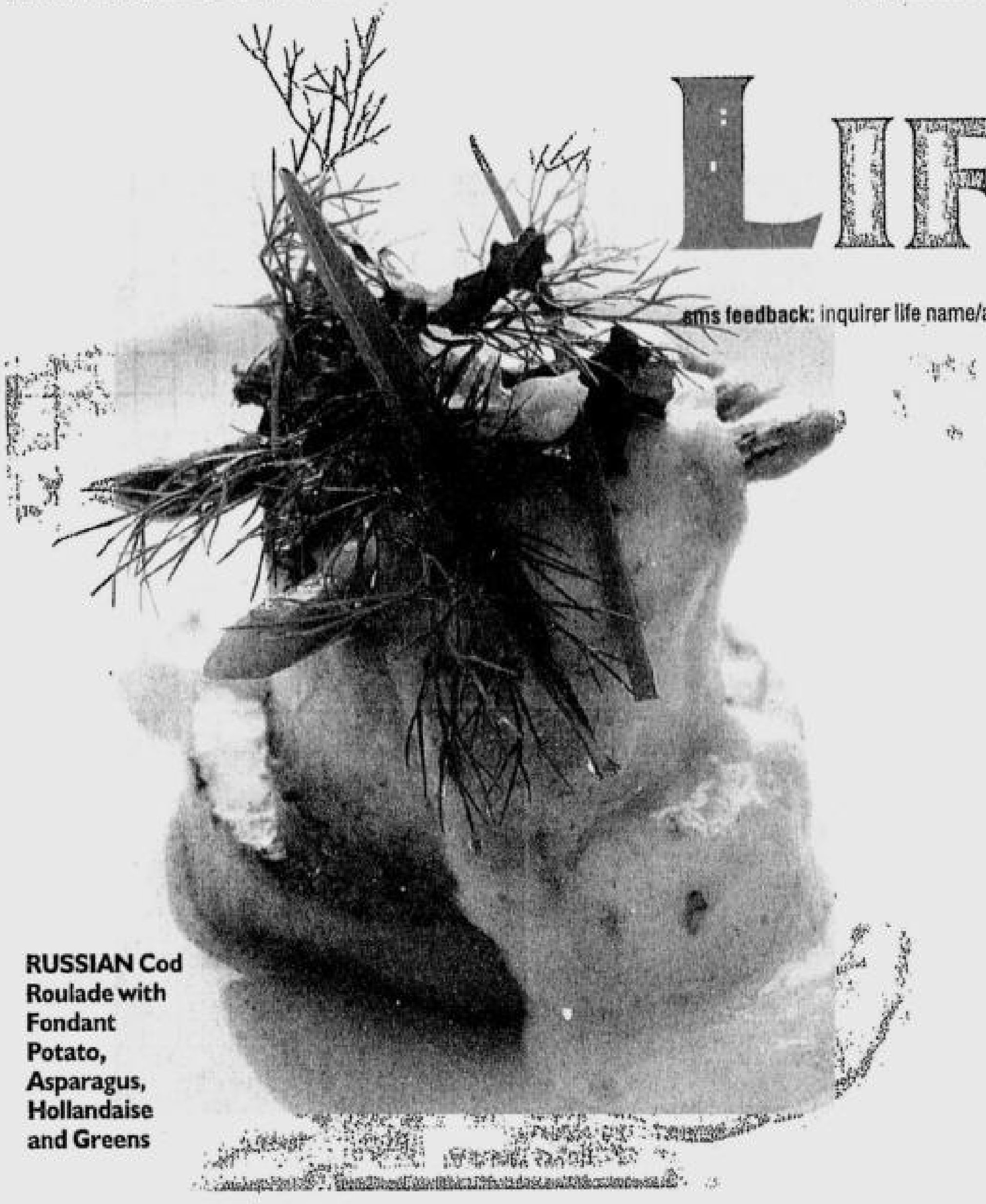
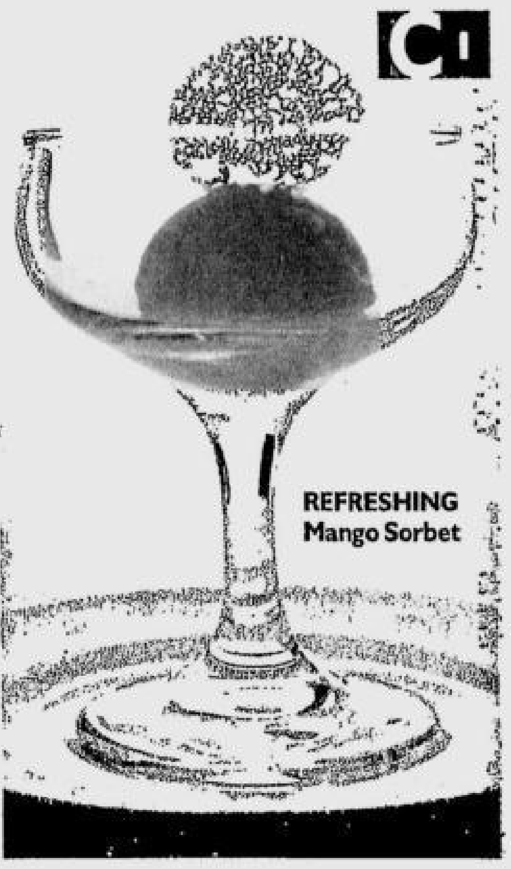


RUSSIAN Cod Roulade with Fondant Potato, Asparagus, Hollandaise and Greens

The yin and yang of gourmet food



REFRESHING Mango Sorbet

Mezzaluna's chef Miguel says even dishes need balance

MEZZALUNA executive chef Carlo Miguel

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Romy Homillada

MEZZALUNA MARKED ITS first anniversary recently with a *degustation* that will now be a regular feature of the restaurant.

Executive chef Carlo Miguel personally prepares the food, paying detailed attention to taste, texture and presentation of every dish.

"When I write menus or prepare my food, what I really tend to do is to try to achieve balance in colors, textures, and flavors... A dish should have a yin and a yang," he said.

A *degustation* or tasting menu consists of several courses, each course a specialty of the house.

At Mezzaluna (Italian for "half moon"), the *degustation*, which will change every few weeks, showcases the restaurant's entrées that are heavily influenced by European cuisine and prepared with prime ingredients from the world's food capitals.

Each dish in the five-course *degustation* will be paired with wine selections from distinguished European, Australian and American vineyards.

Miguel said *degustation* was quite popular in Sydney. He should know, he spent 11 years training in award-winning Sydney restaurants. He said the tasting menu allowed a diner to savor a restaurant's full range of talent and creativity.

Since Mezzaluna is also a showcase for some of the world's finest wines, the restaurant highlights selected vintages as well.

Miguel said the Mezzaluna dining experience included wine, "a great food enhancer." The restaurant takes great pains to store properly its wines—priced from P700 to P10,000 a bottle—in a refrigerated wooden wine cabinet.

The cabinet is designed to replicate the conditions of an excellent European wine cellar. Miguel said, "When you get food and wine to work together, it is like watching a graceful couple do an exciting tango."

But, as everybody knows by now, food-and-wine harmony these days no longer means strictly red for meats and white for fish or fowl.

"The only hard-and-fast rule of wine drinking is to choose something you enjoy," said Miguel. "It's all up to you. It's impossible to ruin a good meal if you choose a wine that you enjoy, regardless of what wine experts say."

THE YIN/ C5

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ALABANG	Gemma	8090395/7750587 0918 3912510
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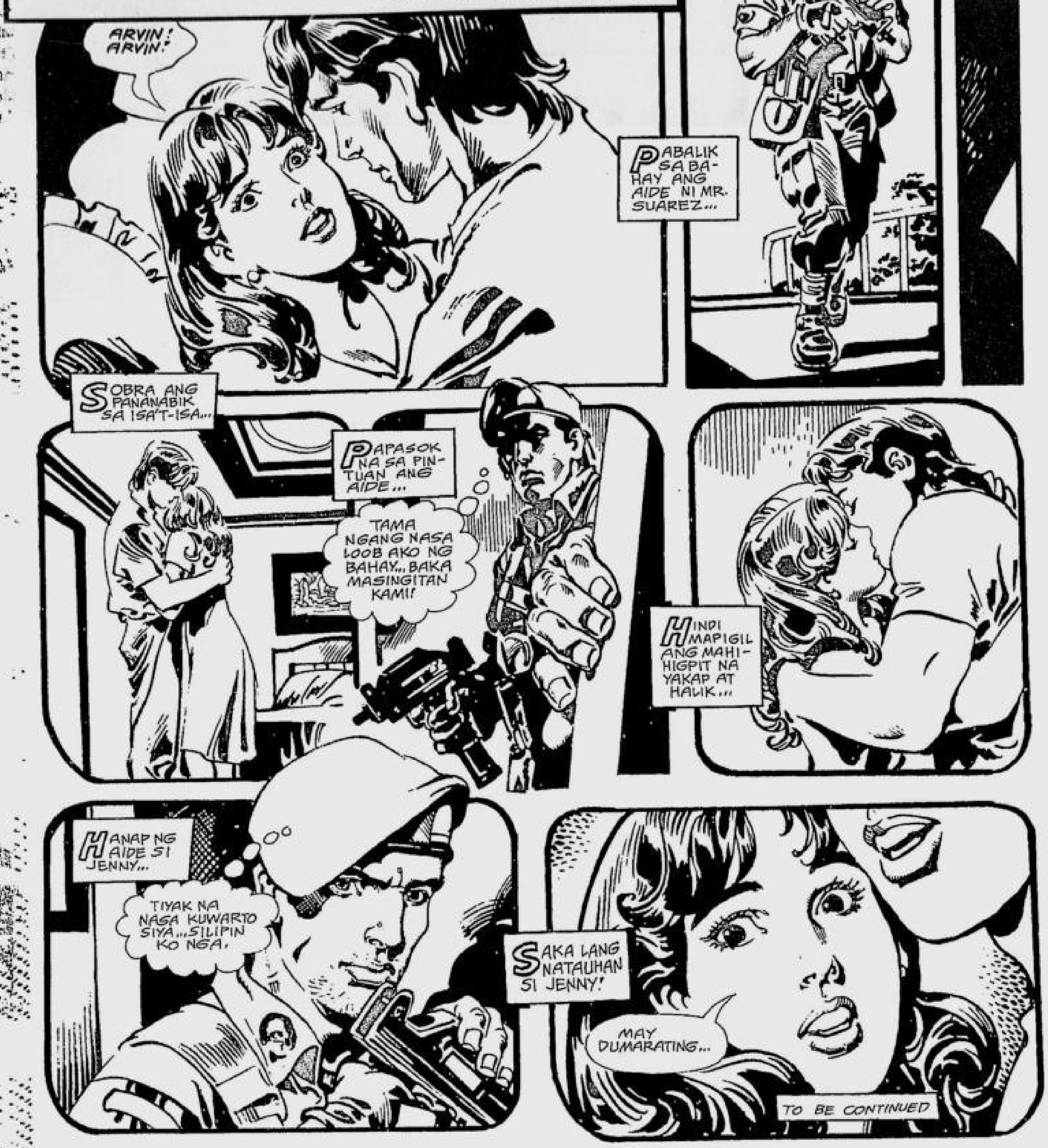
CALOOCAN	Olive	3657653 0915 8804668
CEBU	Juna	231 3254 0915 8797217
GREENHILLS	Jane	7266505/7261526 0917 8261204
H.V.DELA COSTA	Emily	8140138/8140151 0928 2107247
LEGASPI VILL.	Lani	8938935 0928 9719938
MEGAMALL	Ruby	6313869/6377543 0916 2479753
PASAY ROAD	Maan	8871335/8873530 0915 6893088
PASIG	Michelle	6815333/6473816 0928 4763108
SM NORTH	Michelle	9295429/9264215 0905 2690717
SUBIC	Beth	2526514 0928 6712299

A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

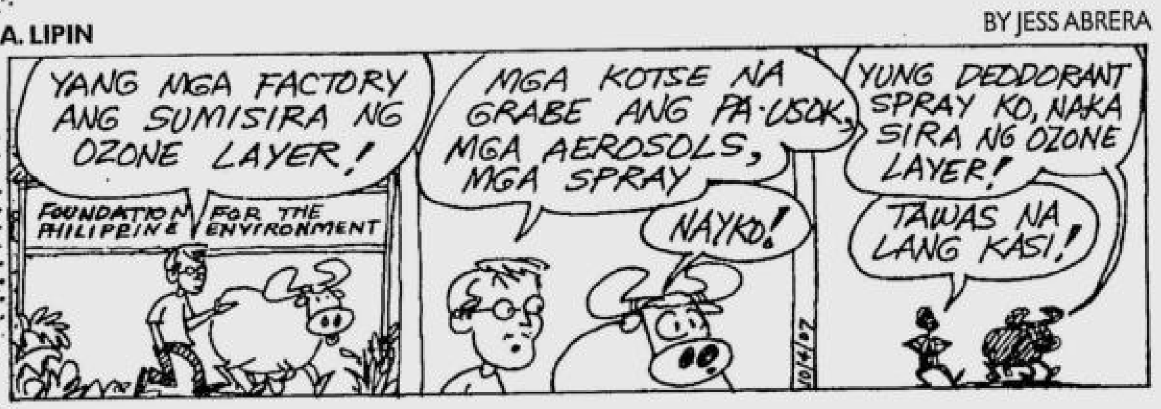
To have and to hold

Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA


ARVIN! ARVIN!
PABALIK SA BAHAY ANG AIDE NI MR. SUAREZ...
SOBRA ANG PANANABIK SA ISA'T-ISA...
PAPASOK NA SA PINTUAN ANG AIDE...
TAMA NGANG NASA LOOB AKO NG BAHAY... BAKA MASINGITAN KAMI!
HINDI MAPIGIL ANG MAHIHIGPIT NA YAKAP AT HALIK...
HANAP NG AIDE SI JENNY...
TIYAK NA NASA KUWARTO SIYA... SILIPIN KO NGA.
SAKA LANG NATAUHAN SI JENNY!
MAY DUMARATING...
TO BE CONTINUED

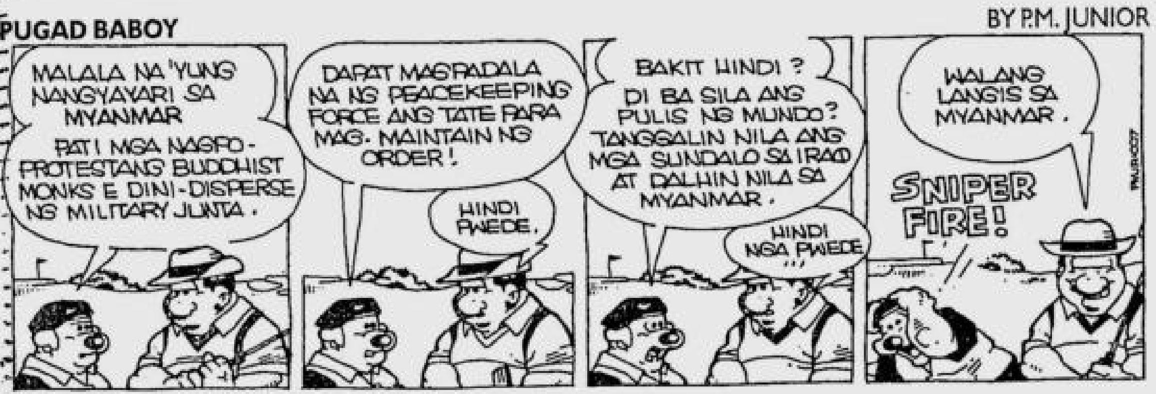
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


YANG MGA FACTORY ANG SUMISIRA NG OZONE LAYER!
FOUNDATION PHILIPPINE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
MGA KOTSE NA GRABE ANG PA-USOK, MGA AEROSOLS, MGA SPRAY
NAYKO!
YUNG DEDDORANT SPRAY KO, NAKA SIRA NG OZONE LAYER!
TAWAS NA LANG KASI!
10/4/07

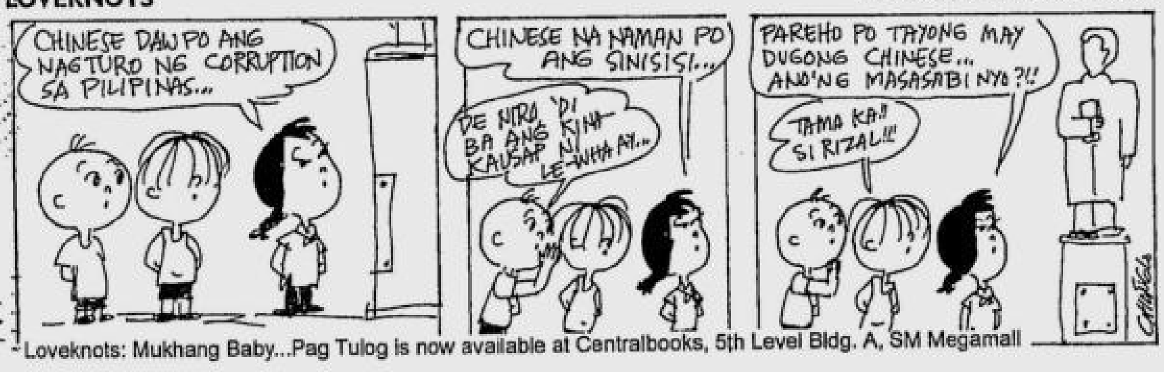
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MALALA NA 'YUNG NANGYAYARI SA MYANMAR
PATI MGA NAGPO-PROTESTANG BUDDHIST MONKS E DINI-DISPERSE NG MILITARY JUNTA.
DAPAT MAG'DALA NA NG PEACEKEEPING FORCE ANG TATE PARA MAG-MAINTAIN NG ORDER!
HINDI PWEDE.
BAKIT HINDI? DI BA SILA ANG PULIS NG MUNDO? TANGGALIN NILA ANG MGA SUNDALO SA IRAQ AT DALHIN NILA SA MYANMAR.
HINDI NGA PWEDE...
WALANG LANGIS SA MYANMAR.
SNIPER FIRE!

LOVEKNOTS

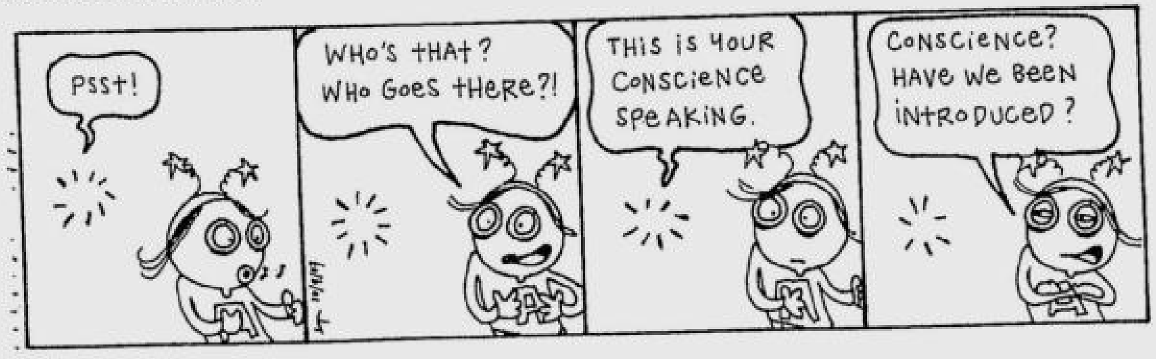
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


CHINESE DAW PO ANG NAGTURO NG CORRUPTION SA PILIPINAS...
CHINESE NA NAMAN PO ANG SINISISI...
DE NIRO 'DI BA ANG KINAKAUSAP NI LE-WHA AY...
PAREHO PO TAYONG MAY DUGONG CHINESE... ANO'NG MASASABI NYO?!!
TAMA KA!! SI RIZAL!!!

Loveknots: Mukhang Baby...Pag Tulog is now available at Centralbooks, 5th Level Bldg. A, SM Megamall

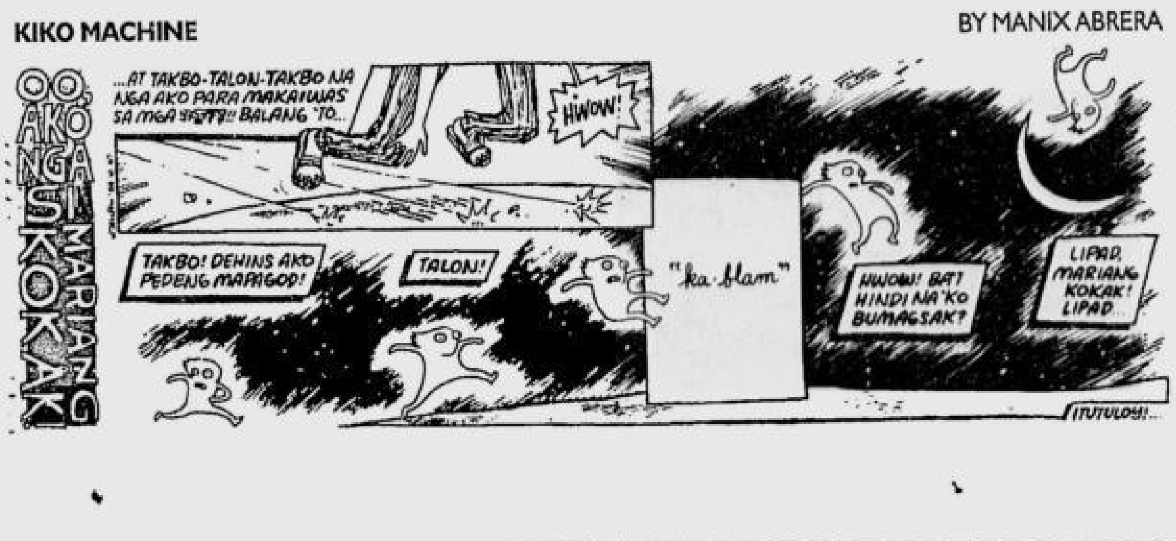
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Psst!
Who's that? Who Goes there?!
This is your Conscience speaking.
Conscience? Have we been introduced?

KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


OO, AKO NGA SI MARIANG KOKAK
...AT TAKBO-TALON-TAKBO NA NGA AKO PARA MAKAIWAS SA MGA #@!! BALANG 'TO...
HIWOW!
TAKBO! DEHINS AKO PEDENG MAPIGOD!
TALON!
"ka-blam"
HIWOW! BAT HINDI NA'KO BUMAGSAK?
LIPAD, MARIANG KOKAK! LIPAD...
ITUTULOY!...

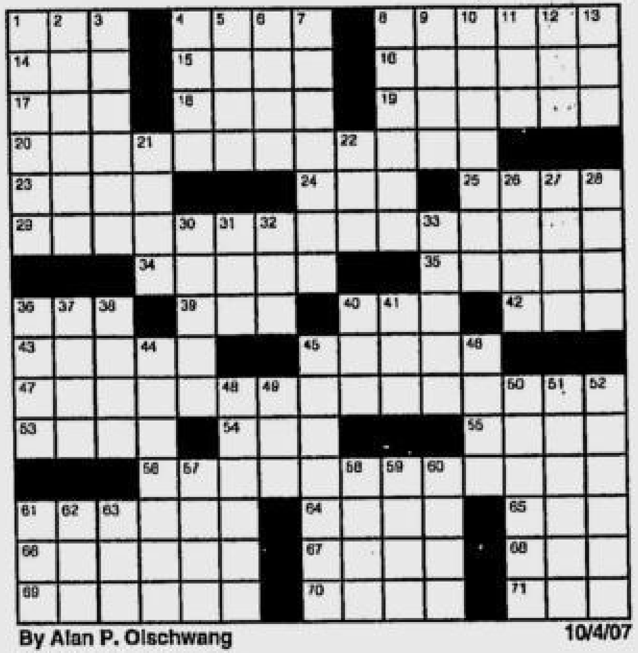
DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Winter ATV, __-Cat
4 Unsightly fruit?
8 Tijuana nosh
14 Poetic contraction
15 Bankrupt
16 Wedding party members
17 Barbary denizen
18 Eastern European
19 Treasure holders
20 Start of Olin Miller quote
23 Writer Wiesel
24 R.E. of the South
25 Quechuan ruler
29 Part 2 of quote
34 Temporary pattern of behavior
35 Spellcaster
36 Youngster
39 Museum purchases
40 Zodiac sign
42 Tango team
43 Kind of clock
45 Merits
47 Part 3 of quote
53 Skier's unwanted souvenir
54 Clodhopper
55 Forum wear
56 End of quote
61 Pic taker
64 Barrett or Jaffe
65 Captain's record
66 Off the boat
67 Hair cluster
68 Before, before
69 Gales
70 Gin flavoring
71 Crimson

DOWN

1 Common gull
2 Katmandu language
3 Low soccer score
4 Bear of stars
5 Swallow rapidly
6 Ananias, for one
7 Entail
8 Cell centers
9 Tennis great
10 Shift
11 Males of the species
12 Table scrap
13 Sound of a leak
21 Shrill sound
22 Speller's contest
26 Teller's call
27 Ball of thread
28 '60s hairstyle
30 Whale star
31 Rower's need
32 WWII craft
33 Narrow leather strip
36 Not of the cloth
37 __ Romeo (Italian car)
38 Calendar units
40 Tony Randall movie, "7 Faces of Doctor __"
41 Make a mistake
44 Turning muscle
45 Endeavors
46 Adam's youngest
48 Rustic inns
49 Delay
50 Hard worker
51 Take no heed of
52 Affixed a label to
57 Avg.
58 Putrid
59 Data
60 Stuff to the gills
61 Pops
62 FDR follower
63 So that's it!


1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13
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29 30 31 32 33
34 35
36 37 38 39 40 41 42
43 44 45 46
47 48 49 50 51 52
53 54 55
56 57 58 59 60
61 62 63 64 65
66 67 68
69 70 71

By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

10/4/07

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

S	T	E	P		L	A	P	P		S	E	N	A	T
S	I	S	I		A	M	O	R		A	T	A	R	I
E	L	A	L		R	E	N	O		L	U	R	I	E
	L	I	F	T	I	N	G	D	E	V	I	C	E	S
			E	R	A	S		I	R	I	S			
P	A	R	R	O	T		A	G	R	A		H	A	M
I	D	E	A	L		E	R	I	E		D	U	D	E
L	O	N	G	L	E	G	G	E	D	B	I	R	D	S
E	R	T	E		N	O	U	S		E	N	O	L	A
S	E	E		T	A	M	E		C	R	O	N	E	S
			S	E	T	A		S	A	T	S			
S	T	E	P	H	E	N	A	N	D	H	A	R	T	
L	A	M	A	R		I	G	O	R		U	H	U	H
U	T	I	C	A		A	A	R	E		R	E	B	A
G	A	L	E	N		C	R	E	S		S	A	S	S

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10/4/07

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis SudoKu

By Dave Green

	5	1	4					
							7	
		2			8			5
			6			1		2
7				5				9
6		3			4			
5			1			4		
	9							
					6	3	8	

Difficulty Level ★★★

10/04

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Answer to previous puzzle

9	5	6	3	1	2	8	4	7
7	4	8	5	6	9	2	1	3
2	1	3	8	4	7	9	5	6
4	3	9	6	7	1	5	8	2
8	7	2	4	3	5	1	6	9
5	6	1	9	2	8	3	7	4
3	9	5	7	8	4	6	2	1
1	8	4	2	9	6	7	3	5
6	2	7	1	5	3	4	9	8

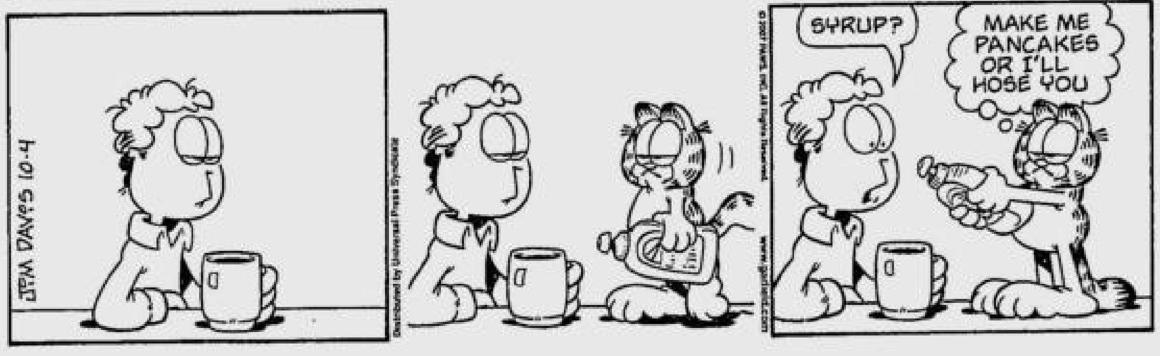
Difficulty Level ★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


JPM DAVPS 10-4
SYRUP?
MAKE ME PANCAKES OR I'LL HOSE YOU

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have many interests. You need variety and like to travel, but above all, you value the beauty of your own home. You love the arts and elegant surroundings. Your talent for being able to visualize things helps you create the home you want. You have many admirers. A major change, perhaps as significant as something around 1998, could take place in the next year.

Birthdate of: Susan Sarandon, actress; Alvin Toffler, author; Anne Rice, author.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Discussions with partners and close friends are important today; primarily, because you can learn more about yourself through these interactions. Observe how you relate.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Act on your urge to get better organized at work and at home. Reduce the clutter in your home. When you reduce the clutter around you, the clutter in your mind also will diminish.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Enjoy sports, games, vacations, movies, the theater or expressing your creative talents in any way you can. Playful activities with children will please you.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Home and family are always important to you. You like to create a cozy nest. Today is an ideal day to do this. (Or you just might want to enjoy a little privacy.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Short trips, errands, shopping, buying and selling, plus conversations and increased time with siblings keep you on the go!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Today you're interested in finances—how you earn money and how you spend it. You also might be concerned with your possessions possibly improving, maintaining or storing them.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Please remember that the Sun is in your sign, which means it's all about you. People and favorable circumstances are attracted to you! (Make hay while the sun shines.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Seek out moments of privacy. You have some serious thinking to do. As your birthday approaches, think about what you want your new year to hold.

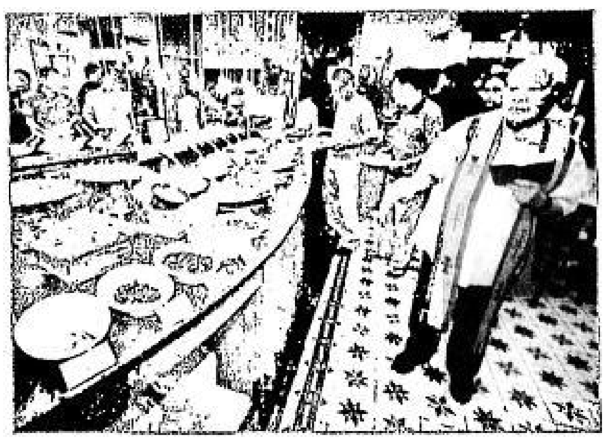
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Your popularity is strong now. Everyone wants to see your face. Get together with others and share your goals and dreams for the future.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): The Sun is at the very top of your chart now and this acts like a spotlight on you. That's why others (especially bosses and VIPs) notice you. Expect to be singled out for something.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You're hungry for adventure and new knowledge about something. You want to expand your world and get more out of life. Travel anywhere if you can.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Important discussions with partners and friends about shared property will be taking place. There are many little wrinkles that need to be ironed out.

Fresh Lumpia Sauce
Sliced Tomato
Sliced Onion



FR. LUIS Candelaria blesses the new branch of Cabalen at Sta. Lucia East.

Pampango eat-all-you-can feast goes East

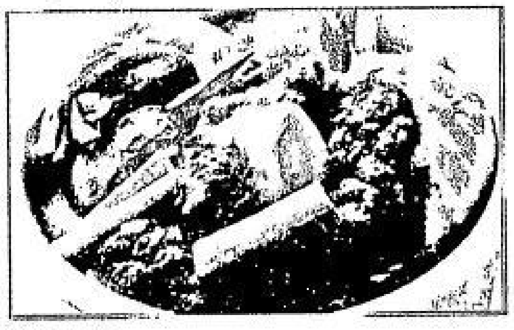
LOVERS OF KAPAMPANGAN FOOD EAST of Manila need not go all the way to Ortigas or Quezon City to enjoy authentic Pampango cooking.

Cabalen, the No. 1 Filipino buffet restaurant, has opened a branch on the ground level of Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall in Cainta, Rizal.

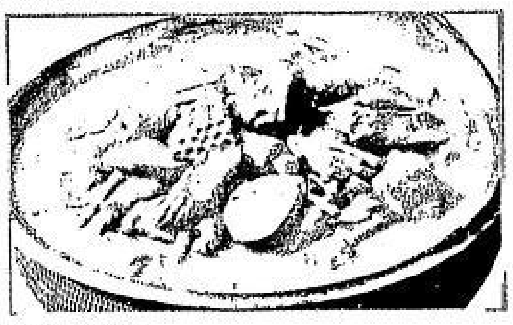
The new 140-seater Cabalen is a mix of old and new décor to achieve the comfortingly Filipino feel typical of every Cabalen branch.

Wall mirrors and bright lights give the restaurant a younger look while the colorful *machuca* tiles, antique chandeliers and wooden furniture give the place a touch of elegance similar to that of an ancestral home.

Cabalen offers Pampanga's renowned dishes like Sizzling Sisig, Kare-Kare, Bulalo, Paksiw na Lechon, Dinuguan, Crispy Crablets and an assortment of dessert like Tibok-Tibok, Leche Flan and the famous Make Your Own Halo-Halo bar.



BULALO



KARE-KARE

This October, new dishes like Okoy Kalabasa, Tiim na Bangus, Pata Cocido and Taguba (beef and pork cooked à la Adobong Visaya) will be part of the over 50 dishes buffet spread.

Cabalen has also launched its annual Paskong Pinoy party package. Great freebies like gift certificates, washing machine, DVD player, rice cooker and other appliances await those who will make Christmas party bookings.

Cabalen restaurants are at 67 West Avenue, QC; 2/L, SM City North Edsa, QC; 4/L, Bldg. B, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong; 2/L, Robinsons Place Ermita, Manila; Glorietta 3, Makati; G/L, Robinsons Starmills, San Fernando Pampanga; 3/L, Chefs Avenue Festival Mall Alabang; G/F, SM City Clark CSEZ Clarkfield, Pampanga; G/F, Sta. Lucia Grand East Mall; 2/L, TriNoma. Another branch will soon open at SM City Taytay.

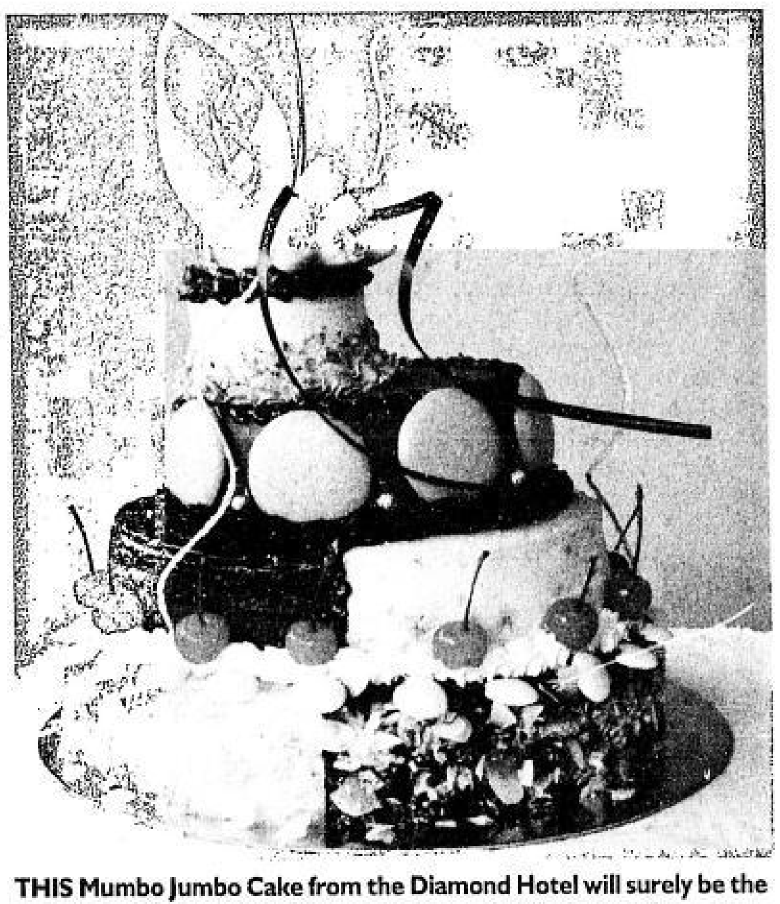
Call 3723515 or 8939884 for reservations; 4219220 or 9135522 for catering.

Good Wine Good Food
with
Carlo Rossi
CALIFORNIA RED

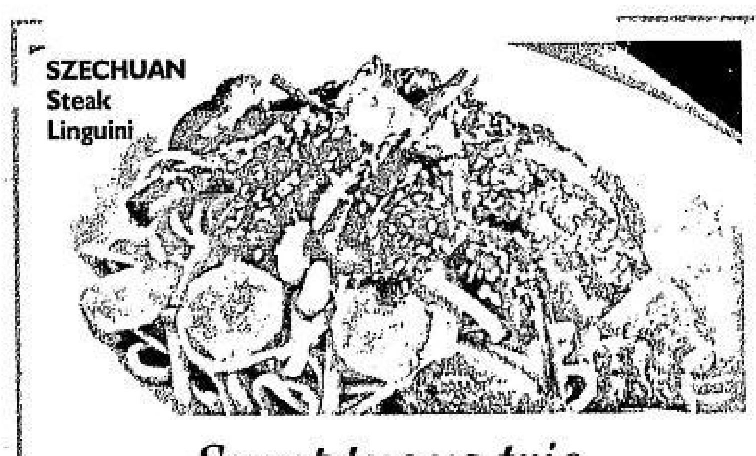
Filipino foods are rich in condiments and sauces. This explains why rice is important in the meals, and why it is difficult to pair wines with Filipino foods. But Carlo Rossi California Red's smooth feel and light and fruity taste, allow the palate to sense the distinct features of Filipino Cuisine.

No. 1 Imported wine in the Philippines

With Carlo Rossi California Red, food and wine become a pleasurable experience.



THIS Mumbo Jumbo Cake from the Diamond Hotel will surely be the piece de resistance of any party or celebration. With six different cake flavors, it's more than enough dessert to satisfy all kinds of cravings. Call 5283000.



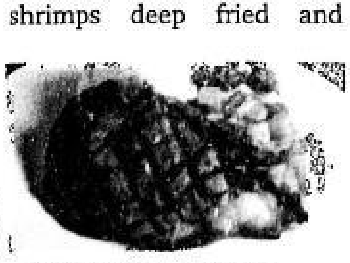
SZECHUAN Steak Linguini

Sumptuous trio

BURGOO AMERICAN Bar and Restaurant offers three new dishes for October and November.

The Ultimate Trio includes Angus Rib-eye Steak Ratatouille (grilled USDA Angus Rib-eye Steak served with ratatouille and mashed potato); Szechuan Steak Linguini (slices of steak with broccoli, carrots, onions, peanuts, sesame seeds, leeks with sweet and spicy sauce in linguini pasta); and Shrimps n' Chips (breaded fresh shrimps deep fried and served with French fries and tartar sauce).

Burgoo has branches at 310 Tomas Morato Ext., QC; 3/L, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati; 2/L, The Podium, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong; 2/L, Promenade, Greenhills, San Juan; 2/L, Gateway Mall, Araneta Center, Cubao, QC; 2/L, Main Mall, South Wing, SM Mall of Asia, Pasay; 4/L, Robinsons Galleria, QC; and 3/L, The Block, SM City North Edsa, QC.



ANGUS Rib-eye Steak Ratatouille

SHRIMPS n Chips

小淘氣
PROKIDS
BEDTIME
COLLECTION

COLLECT PROKIDS WRAPPERS TO GET ANY OR ALL OF THESE ITEMS FOR FREE!

PROMO MECHANICS:

1. Promo Period: August 15 to November 30, 2007
2. You can join by simply collecting wrappers with intact points of **Prokids Premium Baby Diapers *with Soft Cottony Magic Tape*.** Points per packaging are as follows:

Prokids Baby Diapers (with Soft Cottony Magic Tape)	Label Points
1 Mini Pack (S4, M4, L4, XL4)	1/4 point
1 Big Pack (NB24, S22, M20, L18, XL16)	1 point
1 Value Pack (NB48, S44, M40, L36, XL32)	2 points

3. You must collect the following points to get your desired premium item:

Bed Time Collection Items	Points Required
Baby Diaper Bag	20 points
Baby Comforter	18 points
Crib Organizer	16 points
Bolster and Pillow Case Set	12 points

- *Only entire wrappers with intact points of Prokids Premium Baby Diaper **with Soft Cottony Magic** Tape will be accepted.*
- *Entries containing cut-out points will NOT be honored.*
- *Entries containing soiled wrappers (wrappers contaminated with feces or mud, discolored or faded wrappers) and unused wrappers will NOT be honored.*

4. Submit the required **Prokids Premium Baby Diapers *with Soft Cottony Magic Tape*** wrappers together with the complete information written on a piece of paper: sender's name, complete address, baby's name and birthday, telephone and/or mobile phone numbers, signature of parent/guardian and the desired premium item. Please include landmarks for hard to find location.
5. Entries can be mailed or hand carried to:

"Prokids Bed Time Collection"
JS Unitrade Merchandise, Inc.
31st Floor, Raffles Corporate Center
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Or
"Prokids Bed Time Collection"
P.O. Box 14280 Pasig City

6. The chosen premium item/s will be delivered FREE of charge by **JRS Express** to the address submitted by the sender. In the event that the entry sender is not present during the time of delivery, a member of the sender's household may be asked to sign a proof of delivery and receive the premium item/s in behalf of the entry sender.
7. Entries thru mail must be received thirty (30) days after the promo period. Hand delivered entries must be received on or before November 30, 2007.
8. Premium items will be delivered sixty (60) days from end of promo period.
9. You may join as many times as you want.
10. Prizes are not convertible to cash.

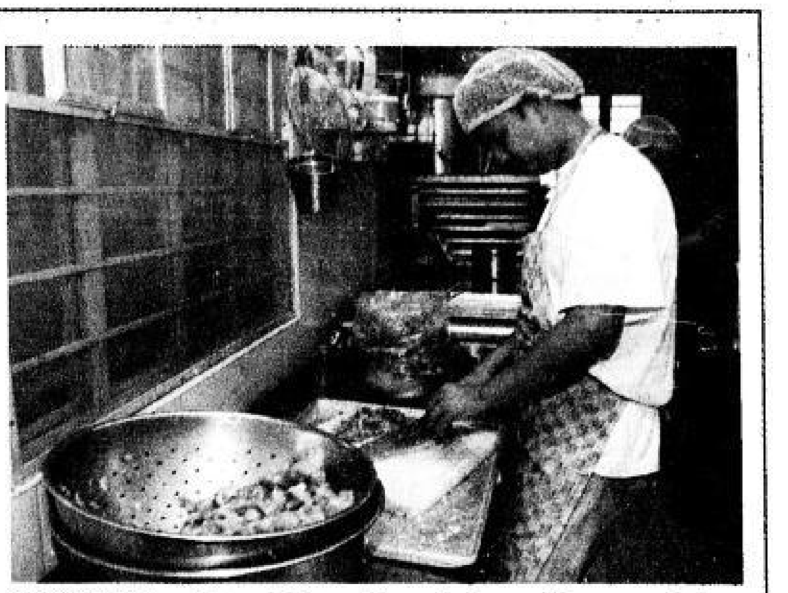
Please visit www.jsunitrade.com for more information on Prokids baby diaper.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3668, series of 2007

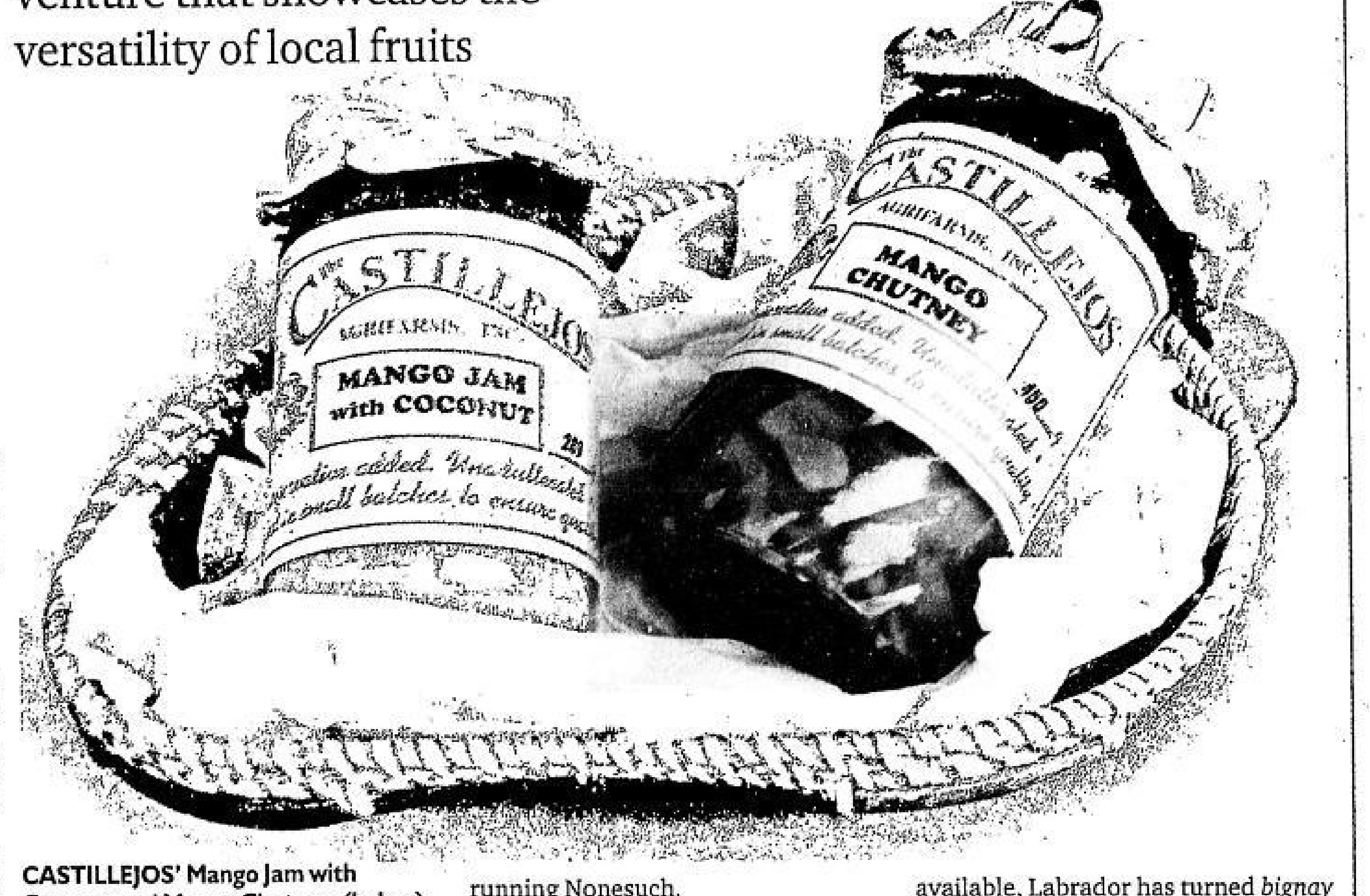
**Pro-comfort.
Pro-baby.**

None such items in your supermarket

Nani Labrador, who made her cafeteria food one of the most sought-after at one time, has gone into a new venture that showcases the versatility of local fruits

CASTILLEJOS *kalamansi* juice and *nata de coco*-stuffed *kalamansi*


ASSISTANT cook Joseph Bernal chops *kalamansi* for marmalade.



CASTILLEJOS' Mango Jam with Coconut and Mango Chutney; (below) *santol* and guava shells in syrup may be served with cream cheese or *kesong puti*.

Text by Linda B. Bolido
Photos by Rodel Rotoni

SHE PARLAYED COOKING skills and secrets learned in her grandparents' kitchens into successful food businesses.

Tweaking family recipes to appeal to a broader clientele, Lourdes "Nani" Magsaysay Labrador made the cafeteria of the Ramon Magsaysay Center on Roxas Boulevard a top favorite among people in the Ermita-Malate area between 1968 and 1973 when she was its administrator.

People talked about the cafeteria the way they do today about fine-dining places.

And her first attempt at an independent venture in 1974, the Nonesuch restaurant on Remedios Street corner M. H. del Pilar in Malate, Manila, remains a pleasant and vivid memory for people who delighted in its innovative cooking and fabulous baked items.

Labrador said Nonesuch dishes were based on home recipes. Although she did not train to be a chef, she read a lot to help her draw up Nonesuch's remarkable menu.

She said, "We trained our own bakers and one of our former employees is now a demonstration chef [for a major food manufacturer]."

After Nonesuch closed in 1999, not a few people hoped the home economics graduate from the University of the Philippines who majored in food and nutrition would come up with another equally impressive project.

New food venture

Well, those who wondered what Labrador had been up to all these years would be happy to know that, while she had not returned to the restaurant business, she had not left the food enterprise all together.

Labrador, who took up post-graduate studies in hotel and restaurant management in the United States, has devoted her considerable talent and energy to a food venture she has nurtured since 1986 when she still was running Nonesuch.

In fact, clients of the old restaurant might have seen, even bought, those jars of jams and marmalades that carried the brand name Castillejos Agrifarms Inc.

Castillejos is the hometown of Labrador, a niece of the late President Magsaysay.

From being a mere adjunct of the restaurant, Castillejos has now become Labrador's main enterprise, turning out jams, jellies, marmalades, pickles and fruits in syrup.

Castillejos has preserved *santol* and guava shells in syrup, stuffed the *kalamansi* fruit with *nata de coco* and added mango to the traditional *matamis na bao*, among others.

Though still not commercially available, Labrador has turned *bignay* into jelly. She has also started to make sugared *sampaloc*, as Filipinos do it and not the Thai way.

Produced in limited quantities, Castillejos items are available at the moment at Gourmet's Inn in Silang, Cavite; the Mandarin Oriental, Silahis Gift Shop in Intramuros, some restaurants and resorts, and, of course, directly from the company.

For those wanting the products as gifts or giveaways, Castillejos products are packaged in native baskets and trays.

Castillejos Agrifarms Inc. is at 105 Edsa, Mandaluyong City; tel. 5314832 or 5315428; fax 5310838; and e-mail labrador@i-next.net.

COUNTRY COOKING
Micky Fenix

The 'barako' brew

AS FORMER GOVERNOR OF Batangas Vicente Mayo explained, the short-lived boom of Lipa coffee in the 1880s, six months in all, was because during the fiesta, a coffee tree led the procession instead of the town's patron saint.

It could be something for "Believe It or Not." Governor Mayo went on with his story, amused at what he was telling us.

He said Lipeños were so rich, because of the coffee boom, they had to figure out where to display their diamonds. Hence, the precious stones were sewn into their slippers.

And the young men, not even out of high school, were wearing sharkskin suits-even if they were only standing at street corners (*tambay*).

That was one of the stories at lunch before a talk on food tourism organized by the Batangas University two weeks ago (more on that in another column).

That story was also told by Maria Kalaw Katigbak in the essay "When Coffee Bloomed in Lipa" (Vol. 7, Filipino Heritage, Lahing Pilipino Publishing). The "extraordinary wealth of the people of Lipa" resulted from the place's being the only supplier of coffee beans when all plantations around the world were devastated by a pest.

But a worm, the *bagombong*, destroyed the Lipa coffee plants. By 1892, the plants had totally disappeared.

Macho brew

The preferred coffee in Batangas is *barako*. It is the variety Liberica, although Robusta and Excelsa are also grown there.

Brewing coffee the Batangueño way meant boiling the freshly ground beans in water then adding sugar, lots of it. There was no filter in the *kapeterya*, which was how my family called the coffee pot, so that when everyone had drunk coffee, a coat of black sediments remained in the cup.

Barako brew has a reputation for being a strong coffee, the kind that causes heart palpitations. Just reading the recipe of Farmhouse Coffee sort of confirms that.

1 k freshly ground coffee
1 k sugar
1 pot of water

That was from the manual "An Introduction to Coffee" by Pacita U. Juan and Ma. Regina S. Francisco." Chit Juan is the face of Figaro Coffee, the untiring promoter of *barako*.

The manual is a primer for people who want to go into the coffee industry whether as producers, operators of coffee shops, *baristas* or just passionate coffee lovers.

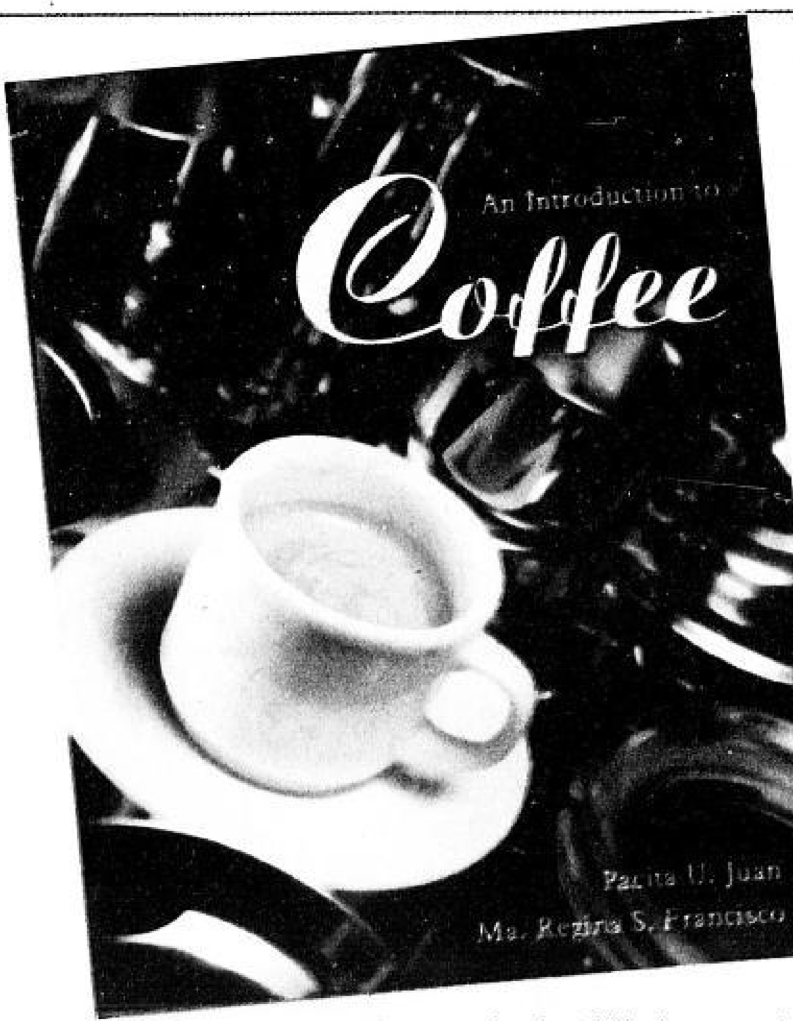
As to heart palpitations, the book says there is "no connection between coffee, caffeine and heart disease." That is mentioned in the page on coffee myths that includes the non-connection between coffee and diseases such as cancer and osteoporosis or brittle bones.

In my family of four, I'm the only coffee drinker. I need it to wake up, to aid digestion and to make me sleep. How coffee can have opposite effects—helping me to wake up and then to sleep—is one of the mysteries in my life. Not that I want it solved.

Moving up

Just like there are pathways to drinking wine, starting with plonk and moving up to smooth and fine, though not necessarily expensive reds and whites, coffee-drinking is also a progression—from instant coffee to the supposedly higher-end-because-expensive freeze-dried product to the brewed to the espresso.

I went through all that then slipped back to the brewed because I genuinely like it rather than the thick and small espresso serving. Besides, I take my coffee with a drop of milk.



Those who are passionate about their coffee are particular about their beans—how those are roasted and, of course, how the coffee is cooked. But, if they are not careful, they may end up as coffee bores.

The coffee bore was described in "The Official Foodie Handbook" by Ann Barr and Paul Levy (Arbor House Publishing Co.), a tongue-in-cheek look at a person who considers food a "favorite art form."

"The coffee bore prefers the berries of the coffee tree of the Coffea arabica species. He dislikes rubbishy robusta (which you can spot by its smaller beans), but often has to settle for it. It is very difficult to buy 100-percent Arabica coffee, though it is indigenous to Ethiopia and still grows wild there. The third species, C. liberica , is chiefly of interest to Liberians, and there are relatively few Foodies in Liberia."

The authors obviously did not know of Lipa and its liberica. I hope they get to hear about how Figaro is working to make the Philippines a major coffee producer and exporter.

The big coffee story these days is the *alamid*. It is a specialized coffee bean taken from the droppings of wild mountain cats (*alamid*). The wild cats eat the best and reddest cherries from the plant but the beans are excreted whole. The beans are cleaned, roasted then sold.

While the shock value of the *alamid* source is probably what sells it in this highly competitive foodie world, the idea of having the best cherries, without the cats, is part of our coffee-drinking history.

The book "Introduction to Coffee" says, "In the provinces that grow coffee, the best crops (those with the reddest cherries) are separated for private consumption and are never sold."

Excuse me then while I drink my coffee.

E-mail the author at pinoyfood04@yahoo.com

Filipinos just love rice

FILIPINOS JUST CAN'T live without rice. Be it breakfast, lunch, snack, dinner or any other meal in between, rice just has to be served. Here is a recipe from Swift Vienna Sausage that indulges the Pinoy's love for rice.

Vienna Rice Island

1 70-g Swift Vienna Sausage
1 tbsp Butterfresh Margarine, melted
¼ c uncooked rice
1 small onion, chopped
½ c canned pineapple tidbits
¼ c celery, minced
½ tsp sugar
1 bay leaf
Salt
Pepper

Swift
Vienna Sausage

Sauté the rice in the melted butter. When the rice turns yellow, add the onions and sauté for three more minutes. Add the pineapple, celery, salt, pepper, sugar and bay leaf. Mix together gently and cover. Allow to simmer for about 20 minutes or until rice is tender. Cook sausage on a skillet until light brown. Put the tomato-rice mixture in the center of the serving dish. Arrange the sausages around the "island" of rice. Garnish with parsley. Makes 2-3 servings.

DATE and Toffee Pudding with Butterscotch Sauce and Vanilla Mascarpone

The yin and yang of gourmet food

From page C1

Preview

For the preview *degustation* during Mezzaluna's anniversary celebration, portions were limited to allow a diner to savor fully the symphony of flavors, textures and aromas of each course.

A Mini Wagyu Burger was first to be served. The melt-in-your-mouth beef perked up everyone's palate. Truly tender and juicy, it was made from deeply marbled beef and served with gratinated gorgonzola and paired with Kir Royal, a cocktail of sparkling wine and raspberry liqueur that was sweet, smooth and so easy to drink, most guests had a second glass.

Miguel has a special attachment to Wagyu beef. He eats it regularly, almost a part of his daily diet. The beef is said to be healthy because of its unique marbling traits.

Miguel said he lost about 50 pounds in just five-and-a-half months from eating Wagyu beef with simple salad or lots of vegetables.

After the burger, Snake River Farm Wagyu rib eye salad with tomatoes and mushrooms was served. The richness of the beef contrasted with the salad of crisp greens and roasted tomatoes topped with a balsamic reduction.

SNAKE River Farm Wagyu Rib Eye Salad with Roasted Tomatoes, Mushrooms in Balsamic Vinegar paired with a glass of Antinori Bianco 2006

MAPLE and Brandy-glazed Confit Kurobuta Pork Belly with Braised Tuscan White Beans and Fennel Orange Slaw

MEZZALUNA marked its first anniversary with a special *degustation* promo.

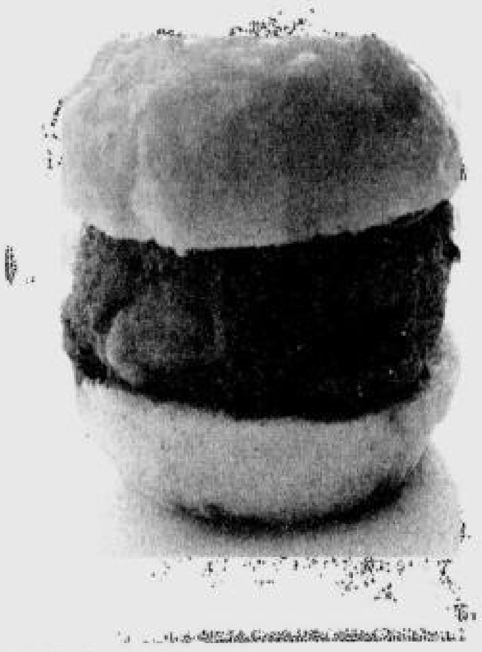
Accompanying the salad was the 2006 Antinori Bianco, straw yellow wine with sweet tannins and lingering fruit in the finish.

The Russian Cod Roulade with fondant potato, asparagus, hollandaise and greens was next. The cod was poached, a process that sealed most of its moisture and preserved its texture. A creamy hollandaise sauce enhanced the flavor of the fish while an herb salad added bright notes.

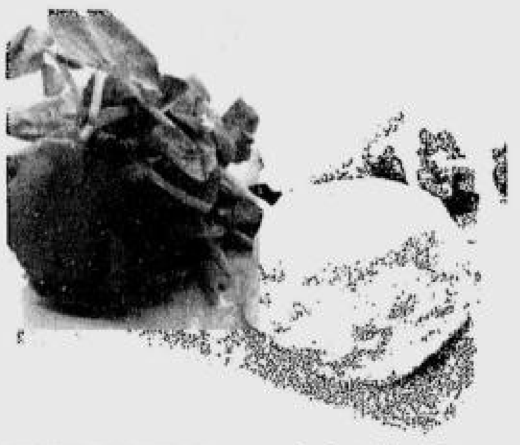
Fork tender and nicely plated, the cod was served with Smoking Loon Chardonnay so as not to overpower the delicate dish.

Before the main entrée, palates were cleaned with a refreshing and delightful mango sorbet.

The Maple and Brandy-glazed Confit Kurobuta pork belly with braised Tuscan white beans and fennel orange slaw highlighted the *degustation*.



MINI Wagyu Burger



TWICE-BAKED Gorgonzola Soufflé with Truffled Honey, Arugula and Walnut Praline

Slow-cooked, the scrumptious pork belly that came from Idaho was served with crisped skin lacquered with maple and brandy. Fennel and oranges provided contrast. The pork absorbed all those flavors from the different ingredients, each one distinct but blending well.

The pork belly was paired with the 2005 Antinori Santa Cristina (90 percent Sangiovese and 10 percent merlot). This ruby red wine has depth and body to complement a hearty meal.

Highlight

Perhaps the best part of the multicourse meal for many of the guests was the Twice-Baked Gorgonzola Soufflé with truffled honey, arugula and walnut praline. It was worth the wait.

Miguel said the savory but light cheese course would always follow an indulgent pork entrée. The cheese was crisp on the outside but super soft in the center. It was paired with a nice Smoking Loon Cabernet Sauvignon.

Capping the fantastic meal was Date and Toffee Pudding. The dessert was playfully spiced with butterscotch sauce and vanilla mascarpone. This moist, classic Sydney dessert was enriched with dates.

Mezzaluna's *degustation* costs P1,500++. And this October, Miguel is offering a new menu consisting of more than 50 dishes including steaks, seafood, *foie gras*, homemade fresh pasta and risotto, pizza and other grilled specialties.

Mezzaluna is on 11th Street, G/F Serendra Commercial Complex, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig (tels. 8560718 or 8180209).

THE CONSUMER

Waiter is served here

By Linda B. Bolido

A COLLEAGUE SHOULD HAVE HEEDed the signs during their first visit to a restaurant on the second floor, Pedro Gil wing, of Robinsons Place Manila.

A waiter slept on the table they wanted and none of the other people wanted to disturb him.

But she said the place served good food so, against their better judgment, they returned and now would want to share a lesson learned from the restaurant.

She would like to advise people who dine out to check carefully their bills before paying.

"An additional item we did not order was (added to our) bill," she wrote.

When they called the attention of the woman cashier, identified only as Domingo, to the error, she did not show any reaction but merely returned to the register to prepare the correct bill.

Given the cashier's attitude, they concluded the padding of their bill was not an oversight but was deliberate. "*Baka lang makalusot*."

The e-mail sender added that the staff, like that first time, did not seem to be in service mode. They were served something other than what they ordered. The explanation was what they wanted was no longer available. "Why didn't they say (that our order was not available)" so they could have made their own choice? she asked.

The waiter also refused to give them condiments, insisting on sprinkling them on their food himself.

Formaldehyde in shampoo

Unilever Philippines, through its brand team and corporate development units, has enjoined its staff to help answer an e-mail asking if formaldehyde in shampoo represented a health risk.

The company said:

"1. Use of formaldehyde as a preservative in cosmetics, including shampoos is allowed and regulated by BFAD (Bureau of Food and Drugs).

"Sunsilk shampoo uses five times less preservative than the allowable limit set for cosmetic products by BFAD. Preservatives prevent germs, bacteria, molds and fungus from growing in the shampoo, the same way chlorine protects our drinking water.

"2. Formaldehyde will wash off from your hair when rinsing. It does not deposit nor accumulate in your scalp or head.

"3. It has always been declared in the shampoo packs and labels.

"4. Other products have formaldehyde like nail polish, clothes, leather, even vaccines. Cosmetics are different from food products."

Feedback

Therese Arnaldo-Marin, marketing services head of Chinatrust, wrote to apologize for the persistent text messages from "third-party sales agents about our 'cash loan'."

She gave the assurance that the bank was taking steps to improve further their service delivery including that of third-party sales agencies.

She said the bank "shall undertake the necessary measures to develop quality sales and service programs for our products."

That is good to hear because, after the item on Chinatrust came out, a reader told us of her own unhappy experience with bank "third-party" sales agent.

When the reader asked the agent to stop sending her those messages, the agent told her she should change her SIM (subscriber's identification module) card instead so she would have a different number.

Meanwhile, reader Jeff Soyangco, reacting to the same item, is inclined to think telemarketers "have access to Globe Telecom's postpaid subscribers... Globe Telecom should explain why and how these people were able to get our information."

On the other hand, if what one agent said was true that banks were "sharing privilege information, isn't that a violation of prevailing bank regulations and our right to privacy?" he asked.

Soyangco said, "In the US, telemarketers need to observe rules with regards to time, day and points of access (voice, e-mail, etc.). They will do these activities in accordance with federal laws, otherwise they will face heavy sanctions (civil and criminal)."

He expressed the hope that Filipino lawmakers would enact laws covering these practices and government regulatory bodies would set ground rules.

DINING OUT

A taste of the Big Easy

ENJOY NEW ORLEANS' COOKING AT GUMBO Restaurant, at the 2/L Entertainment Hall, SM Mall of Asia, Pasay City; and 2/L The Block, SM City North Edsa. This October and November, Gumbo offers three new dishes: Fish Roulade (cream dori fish with bacon, steamed and served with caper salsa and spaghettini pasta in olive oil), Grilled Rib-eye Steak Marsala (USDA Angus Rib-eye steak, served with mixed vegetables in marsala sauce) and Shrimps Creole Spaghettini (sautéed shrimps in pomodoro and alfredo sauce with red bell pepper and chili flakes, served with spaghettini pasta, then garnished with green onions) (tel. 4420106).

MANILA PAVILION's Seasons offers Buffet 8-5-0 featuring hot shabu-shabu and other international dishes for P850 net. The buffet is available for lunch, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m., and dinner, 6:30-10:30 p.m. (tel. 5261212 loc 2318).

HERITAGE HOTEL MANILA presents "Buka Puasa" and "Waves of Seafood Waves" until Oct. 13 at Riviera Cafe (tel. 8548888 or e-mail foodbeve@heritagehotelmanila.com).

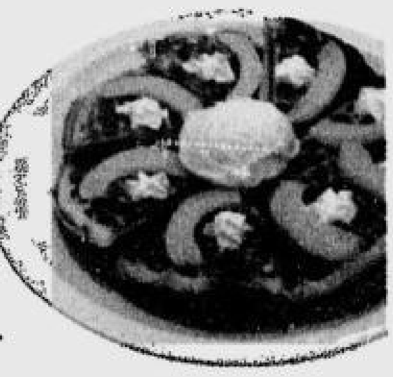
SULO HOTEL features "Octobeerfest!" Enjoy a 50-percent discount on San Miguel Beer during Happy Hours, 5:30-8 p.m., and Octobeerfest 8-10 p.m. every Friday night. Avail of the 5+1 beer in a bucket promo and enjoy your favorite *pulutan* for free (tel. 9245051).

MEZZE's Tapas Bar features guest chef Bingoy Remedios 3-6 p.m. every weekend. Tapas Calientes include Patatas Bravas, Salpicao Wraps, Squash Blossoms, Spanakopeta, and Gambas and Croquetas. Tapas Frias include Mezedes, Fig and Prosciutto, Tuna Tartare, Smoked Salmon & Black Caviar, Fruit Frais aux Fromage and Shrimp Shooters. Price is P350++ per person. Spanish wines are available at P300 ++ per person (tel. 7288895).

GUMBO's Fish Roulade

PEACH PASSION

Combine fruit frenzy with waffle madness and what do you get? Peaches and Cream Waffle Pinwheel! Layers of luscious waffle are topped with your choice of ice cream and fresh peaches, served with a dollop of whipped cream. Enjoy the combination for breakfast or any time of the day at Heaven N' Eggs Eastwood City branch, 9121172 or (text) 0917-8EWCITY.



THE OLD SWISS INN Makati offers brunch buffet on Sundays for as low as P650 net per person. The buffet, available 11 a.m.-2 p.m. features traditional and Swiss favorites such as corned beef, Raclette, eggs Benedict, pancakes, salad, pasta, grilled sausages, and Toblerone Chocolate fondue. Old Swiss Inn Makati is located at the G/F Somerset Olympia Bldg., Makati Avenue (beside The Peninsula Manila). Call 8188251 or 8180098, or 0918-9991010.

CHICKEN TACOS

Chili's presents Chicken Club Tacos, three soft flour tortillas filled with mesquite chicken, chopped crispy bacon, diced tomatoes, mixed cheeses, lettuce, and chipotle-ranch dressing. It comes with Pueblo rice and black beans or home-style fries or sweet corn on the cob. Another new addition to the menu is Caramel Apple Tart, skillet-baked moist apple tart topped with vanilla ice cream, warm caramel sauce and cinnamon. Chili's is at Greenbelt 1, Makati; Northeast Greenhills, and Tomas Morato, Quezon City.

KITCHEN RESCUE
Reggie Aspiras

On-the-spot 'lechon tupa'

I FIRST MET ROBERTO Aquino many years ago when my students threw a party for me, masterminded by Marnie Ong, at Jenny Lao's residence.

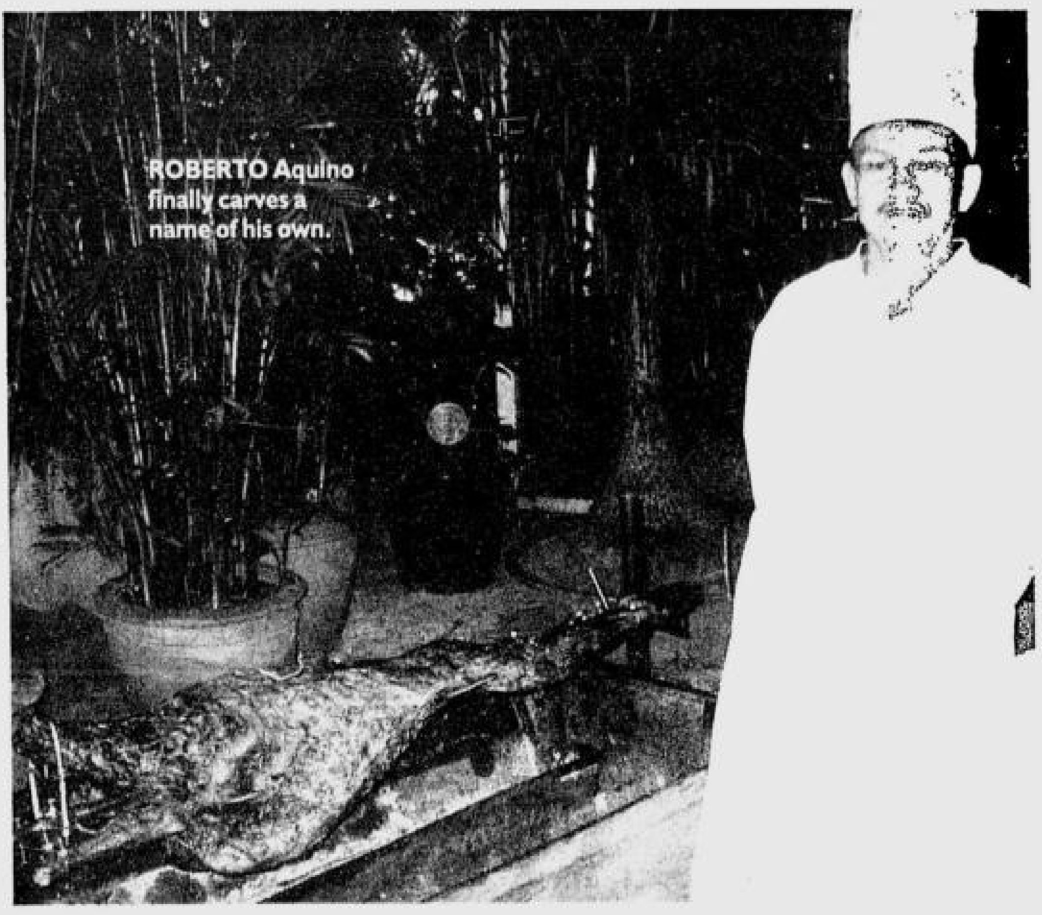
His spit-roasted lamb was just so good he became a fixture in many of our parties.

I lost touch with him for some strange reason until I saw him again at Mia Manuel's surprise party for her husband Ariel. It is good to know that he is alive and kickin', although he has now gone solo, and still serving the best whole Mediterranean marinated lamb carcass on a spit.

Apart from his lamb carcass, he also does kebabs, lamb chops, lamb leg, steaks with sauces. Pretty soon, *lechon manok, baka* and *baboy* will be added to his on-the-spot repertoire.

Next time you have something special, give this chef/ butcher a call (tels. 0906-8404323 and 2790556)! One hundred-percent lamb satisfaction guaranteed!

Roberto Aquino also does kebabs, lamb chops, lamb leg, steaks


ROBERTO Aquino finally carves a name of his own.

Divine Pan de Sal

I am tired of serving *pan de sal* the same way all the time. Do you have *pan de sal* ideas and recipes to share?
RONI

NORA Divina of San Antonio Bakery with her Divine Pan De Sal

Before I get to that, let me first tell you about my favorite *pan de sal*.

In a little stall in Krus na Ligas, Quezon City is where you will find Nora Divina, owner of the San Antonio bakery that bakes among the yummiest *pan de sal* around (tel. 4338128).

Theirs is the sweet kind, so flavorful, so *siksik*, soft and tender even three days after purchase! I kid you not when I say *may amag na, malambot pa*!

My problem with it is you can have three pieces in one sitting with absolutely no difficulty. My 3-year-old son Diego devours four! It is excellent with and without *palaman*! I thank my mom's driver Rolly for this discovery!

Pan de Sal Bar with 5 Fillings

Now to *pan de sal* ideas! When I serve *merienda*, I usually do a *pan de sal* bar. Here are my recipes. All you need to do is slice your *pan de sal*, bring out a flat griddle, heat it up. Put some butter on your grill, slightly toast your *pan de sal* and stuff with your filling of choice. The *pan de sal* must be grilled just before serving, preferably on the spot. Enjoy!

Corned Beef:
¼ c oil
1 c shallots, sliced
2 tbsp garlic, chopped
2 tomatoes, sliced
2 small cans corned beef (I use Purefoods Blue Label)
1 c diced potatoes or roasted apples (optional; toss diced apples in enough melted butter to coat lightly, sprinkle with a little sugar, transfer to a baking sheet and bake 350°F until apples are tender)
Salt and pepper

Heat oil. dd shallots and caramelize.

Add garlic and tomatoes, cook until tomatoes are soft.

Add corned beef. Cook to heat corned beef through. Add potatoes or apples.

Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Sandwich into grilled *pan de sal*. I serve mine with mustard.

Quesong Puti with Herbs:
200 g *quesong puti*, sliced
3 tbsp parsley, chopped
½ c shallots, chopped
1 c tomatoes, chopped
2 tsp fresh oregano, chopped
Extra-virgin olive oil
Pepper

Arrange *quesong puti* on a platter. Evenly distribute the rest of the ingredients on top of *queso*.

Dribble with olive oil. Sprinkle with pepper.

Slightly heat cheese on grill until edges begin to melt. Sandwich into grilled *pan de sal*.

Quesong Puti with Jam:
200 g *quesong puti*, sliced
Guava jelly or mango jam

Arrange *quesong puti* on a platter. Put a dollop of jam or jelly atop each slice of *queso*.

Slightly heat cheese on grill until edges begin to melt. Sandwich into grilled *pan de sal*.

Sardines :
1/3 c olive oil
2 tbsp garlic
¼ c onions, chopped
½ c raisins, optional
1 medium onion, finely chopped
4 cans sardines in tomato sauce, drained (I use 555)
1 c eggplant, grilled and chopped
Salt and pepper
Chili flakes

Saute garlic, onions, eggplants, and raisins in olive oil. Add sardines. Season to taste. Sandwich into grilled *pan de sal*.

Ham:
250 g sweet cured ham of choice, sliced ¼-inch thick

Glaze:
½ c dark-brown sugar
2 tbsp fresh lime juice
1 tbsp soy sauce
1 tbsp sake
1 tbsp mustard
2 tbsp butter

Whisk all ingredients until sugar is dissolved.

Cook ham on a heated grill plate or a pan with a little butter. Brush with glaze. Sandwich into grilled *pan de sal*.

Teflon repair

I have been receiving inquiries where Teflon pans can be fixed, refinished or recoated. I was unable to reply since I knew of no one who did this.

Last week, Alexie Claparols told me she knew of someone and she said they did quite a fantastic job! If you have a minimum number of pots and pans, they will pick them up and recoat them. Call Altech International at 8200757.

E-mail the author at raspiras@inquirer.com.ph

Shabu-shabu place opens

HAO FUSION Shabu-Shabu

HAO FUSION HAS OPENED a new branch at Festival Supermall in Alabang in response to the growing demand for *shabu-shabu* and seafood restaurants south of Metro Manila.

Owned and managed by Jasmine Kim, Hao Fusion has buffet *shabu-shabu*, as well as a wide selection of fresh seafood, poultry, pork and beef, all freshly cooked.

Children can enjoy barbecues, sausages and hotdogs.

Hao Fusion Restaurant is at the mall's second level, near the Mini Trade Hall. Open 11 a.m.-9 p.m. daily, it accepts reservation for special occasions, meetings and other events.

Festival Supermall is at Filinvest Corporate City Alabang, Muntinlupa. Call 8503514 and 8503515, visit www.festivalsupermall. com.ph.

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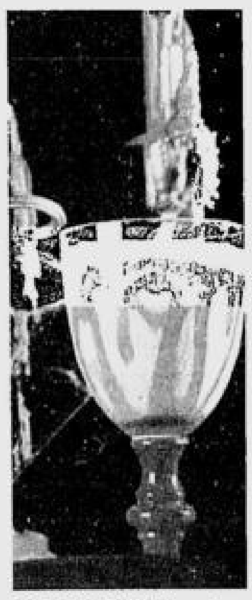
Ghoulishly delightful treats

TRY THESE BIZARRE YET DELICIOUSLY fun treats for Halloween! Make your hands dirty and follow the gooey steps to making these recipes from San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center. Get your kids spooked as they take bites off Meaty Eyeballs and Chopped Hand Pasta then, quench your thirst with our version of Vampire's Blood Shake. Happy Halloween!

Visit www.mygreatfood.com.

MEATY Eyeballs


VAMPIRE'S Blood Shake

Meaty Eyeballs

Meatball:
½ k Monterey Ground Beef
1 pc egg
¼ c breadcrumbs
½ tsp salt
¼ tsp pepper
Pimiento-stuffed olives

Sauce:
½ c tomato catsup
2 tsp Worcestershire sauce
1 tsp garlic, chopped
2 tbsp brown sugar

Mix all meatball ingredients in a bowl except the olives. Form into 1-inch balls then push in a piece of olive into each of the meatballs to create an eye effect. Put "eyeballs" in a baking dish. Set aside.

In another bowl, mix all the ingredients for the sauce. Pour over "eyeballs" then bake for 30 minutes at 350°F.

Serves five.

Purefoods Tender Juicy Chopped Hand Pasta

200 g spaghetti
2 tbsp Magnolia Nutri-oil
2 pc Purefoods Tender Juicy Hotdog Balls
8 pc Purefoods Tender Juicy Hotdog, Regular
2 pc Purefoods Tender Juicy Hotdog, Jumbo
2 pc bread
1-390g can Purefoods Spaghetti Meat Sauce

Cook pasta according to directions.

Heat oil. Cook hotdog and set aside.

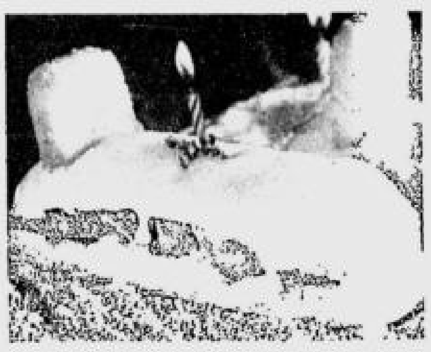
Shape bread like the palm of a hand. Toast and set aside.

In a saucepan, heat meat sauce and set aside.

To assemble:

Place pasta on a plate. Line hotdog like fingers. Use Jumbo Hotdog as the thumb and Hotdog Balls as the chopped part of the finger and Regular hotdog as the other fingers. Place the toasted bread as palm of a hand. Place the meat sauce on the pasta and on the chopped thumb finger.

Serves three to four.


GRAVEYARD Sandwiches

Vampire's Blood Shake

2 c Yoplait Strawberry Yogurt
1/2 tsp vanilla extract
1 c fresh or canned strawberry
2 c ice cube
4 scoop Magnolia Strawberry Ice Cream
2 c Magnolia Fresh Milk

Mix all ingredients in a blender until smooth. Pour into serving glasses. Drizzle with strawberry syrup on top for additional "bloody" and eerie effect.

Serves five.

Graveyard Sandwiches

2 pc Purefoods Oversized Nuggets
Magnolia Nutri-oil for deep frying
2 pc mini baguette
2 slice Purefoods Cooked Ham
4 tbsp Magnolia Cheezee Spread
1 bar Magnolia Cream Cheese, softened
1 pack Magnolia Best Fruits Jam, Strawberry

Heat oil. Fry nuggets and drain.

Slice baguette in the middle and toast.

In one baguette, spread Magnolia Cheezee Spread and top with ham. In the other baguette, spread softened cream cheese and top with strawberry jam. In one side of each baguette, make a slit to insert nuggets to make it look like a tombstone.

Serves two.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) **or email us at** entertainment@inquirer.com.ph **Website:** www.inquirer.net/entertainment

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No strangers to disillusion

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

THE COMING-OF-AGE drama "December Boys" plies the obvious routes, attempting to reel in viewers with uber-schmaltz, but succeeds only half the time. Just leave expectations at the door; the film is decently made and bearable enough.

"December Boys," set in 1960s Australia, is based on the 1963 novel by Michael Noonan. It follows four orphans, one of them played by teen superstar Daniel Radcliffe. Raised by nuns, the quartet shares the same birthday month and the desire for families to belong to.

Rod Hardy, whose TV directing credits include episodes of "Battlestar Galactica," "The Practice," and "The X-Files," has subtlety and finesse, but the drama is disengaging at times.

Calming backdrop

The orphans go on holiday at an old couple's seaside place and end up competing for the attention of another couple in the area. No, the competition doesn't get ugly, just boring.

But the scenery can't be beat. You can tune out of the rivalries to take in calming views of beaches, hills, and bizarre rock formations.

Radcliffe handles his role capably, managing to shake off all things Hogwarts even as the kids collectively encounter disillusion and sadness in different forms. On the "bright" side, "December Boys" is able to compress these themes—heartbreak, dashed optimism and hope—into a comprehensible package.

A SCENE from "Lalake sa Parola"

More raves for indies

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE INDEPENDENT movie scene is at its busiest, with quality releases reaping raves and awards here and abroad.

'Lalake sa Parola'

Jay Altarejos' "Ang Lalake sa Parola" got a "B" rating from the Cinema Evaluation Board for "innovative storytelling."

Said CEB member Digna Santiago, quoting a critic: "The script is the best [element] of this thinking film."

Jose "Jay" Altarejos, director, said, "This is about the search for oneself through the lens of rural prejudice, homosexuality, myths, and fairies; and the lies that people create to escape bitter realities."

"Parola" tells of Mateo's (Harry Laurel) search for his father (Richard Quan) that leads him to Lobo, Batangas, where he ends up as caretaker of the lighthouse. He meets Jerome (Justin de Leon), a gay man from the city. Thus starts his "homoerotic journey." Suzette (Jennifer Lee), Mateo's girlfriend competes for his affection.

"There is graphic sex, but I believe in the honesty and sincerity of the film," said Santiago, citing another CEB member.

A grade B entitles a movie to a 65-percent tax rebate.

The film, produced by Viva Digital: Beyond the Box, also stars Crispin Pineda, Alan Paule, Sheree, Richard Quan, Monti Parungao and Dexter Doria.

'Foster Child'

Briliante "Dante" Mendoza's "Foster

MORE RAVES/ D2

DID YOU KNOW...

NEW YORK—Kate Hudson, Kirsten Dunst and Rita Wilcon went behind the camera for Glamour magazine's "Reel Moments"—short films based on readers' personal essays. The films premiere Oct. 9 in Los Angeles. *AP*

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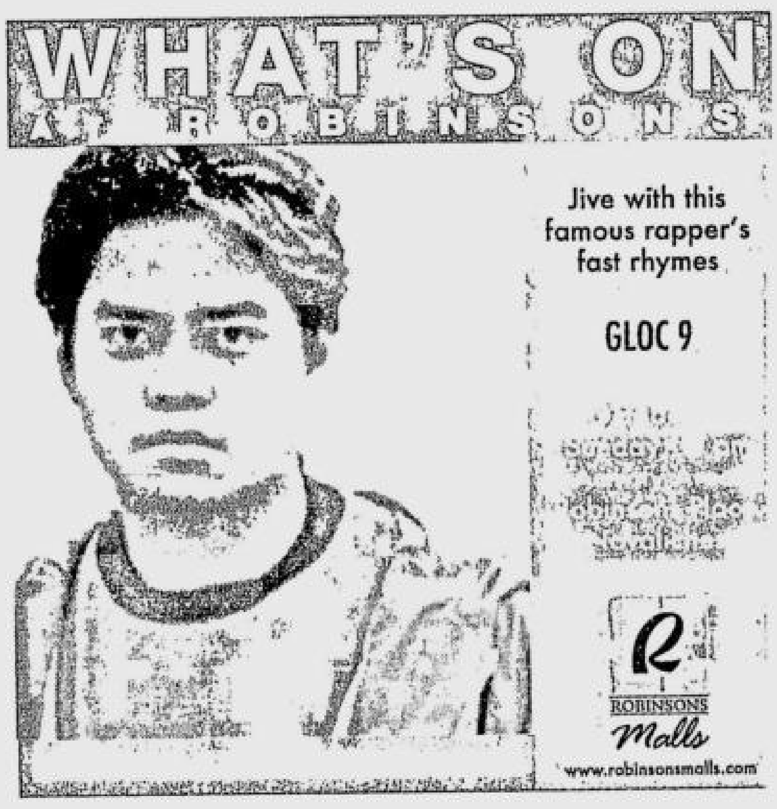
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Testy Ms. Kapamilya out to irk Ms. Kapuso

DOLLY WOOD
Dolly Anne Carvajal

DURING a TV commercial shoot for a beauty product, a Kapamilya actress kept making faces after each scene with a Kapuso actress. The director told her to stop, in vain. Ms. Kapamilya also kept making side comments—playfully, but it was obvious she was trying to antagonize Ms. Kapuso.

The ad agency people said it only showed how insecure Ms. Kapamilya was about Ms. Kapuso. One of the make-up artists lamented, *"Ewan ko ba bakit parati kinukuha yan. Maganda nga ang mukha, pangit naman ang attitude!"*

Ms. Kapuso kept her composure, thank goodness. Maybe the tag line of the ad should be, "Mirror mirror on the wall, who's the bitchiest of them all?"

Man enough?

Dennis Trillo has owned up to being the father of Carlene Aguilar's baby, who was born in the US. I wonder if beauty queen Josephine Canonizado, who's also in the States and said to be pregnant, has delivered *her* baby. Talk pinpointing an action star as the "culprit" refuses to die down. Will he be man enough to do a Dennis Trillo?

Quotable quotes

Here are quotable quotes I gathered from some celebs during my bonding time with them:

Amalia Fuentes: "It's not a sin to be born poor; it's a sin to die poor."

Gloria Diaz: "Beauty is skin deep, but ugliness is to the bone."

Cesar Montano: "You are the gatekeeper of your fate. Don't let others dictate your future."

Vicki Belo: "The only cure for a broken heart is to fall in love with someone else, but that will just lead to another heartache."

Gretchen Baretto: "When you give wholeheartedly, there's no room for making *sumbat*."

Dingdong Dantes: "It's flattering when people say I'm sexy but that's not how I want to be remembered."

Polo Ravales: "When you're in a relationship with someone from show biz, there are others involved: The fans."

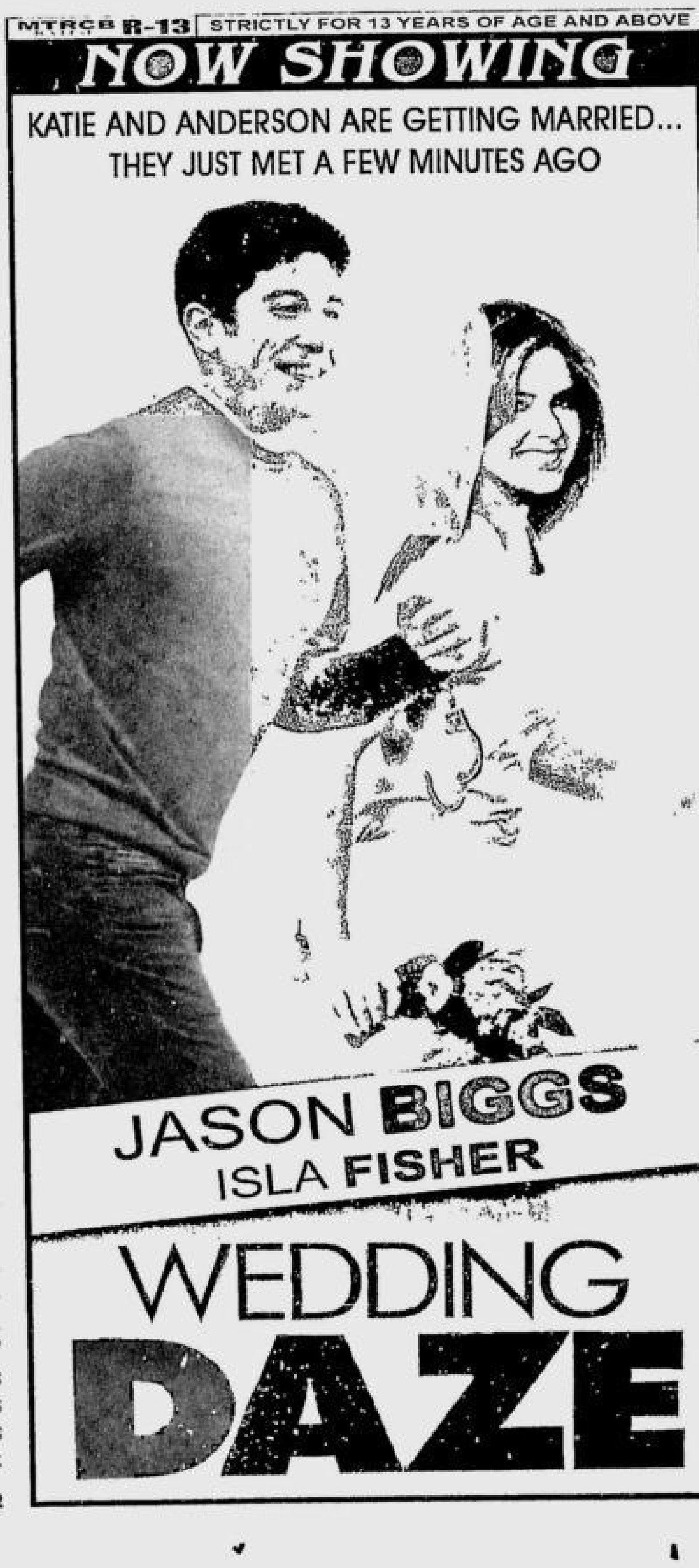
'Sabado Boys'

Catch Luke Mejares, Paolo Santos, Jimmy Bondoc, Mike Chan, Top Suzara and DJ Myke in the new season of "Sabado Boys" on RPN 9, 9-10, Saturday nights. It's like a weekend gimmick delivered via your TV screens.

Luke and Paolo are two of my fave drinking buddies. I'm sure they will be as wacky on the TV show as when we chill out.

All of the hosts are accomplished musicians in different genres, so expect a fab collaboration. Jimmy is known as "Musikero," Luke is the R&B Prince, Paolo is "Mr. Acoustic," Top is Freestyle's former main man, DJ Myke is from the Akafellas and Mike is Mr.

TESTY/ D2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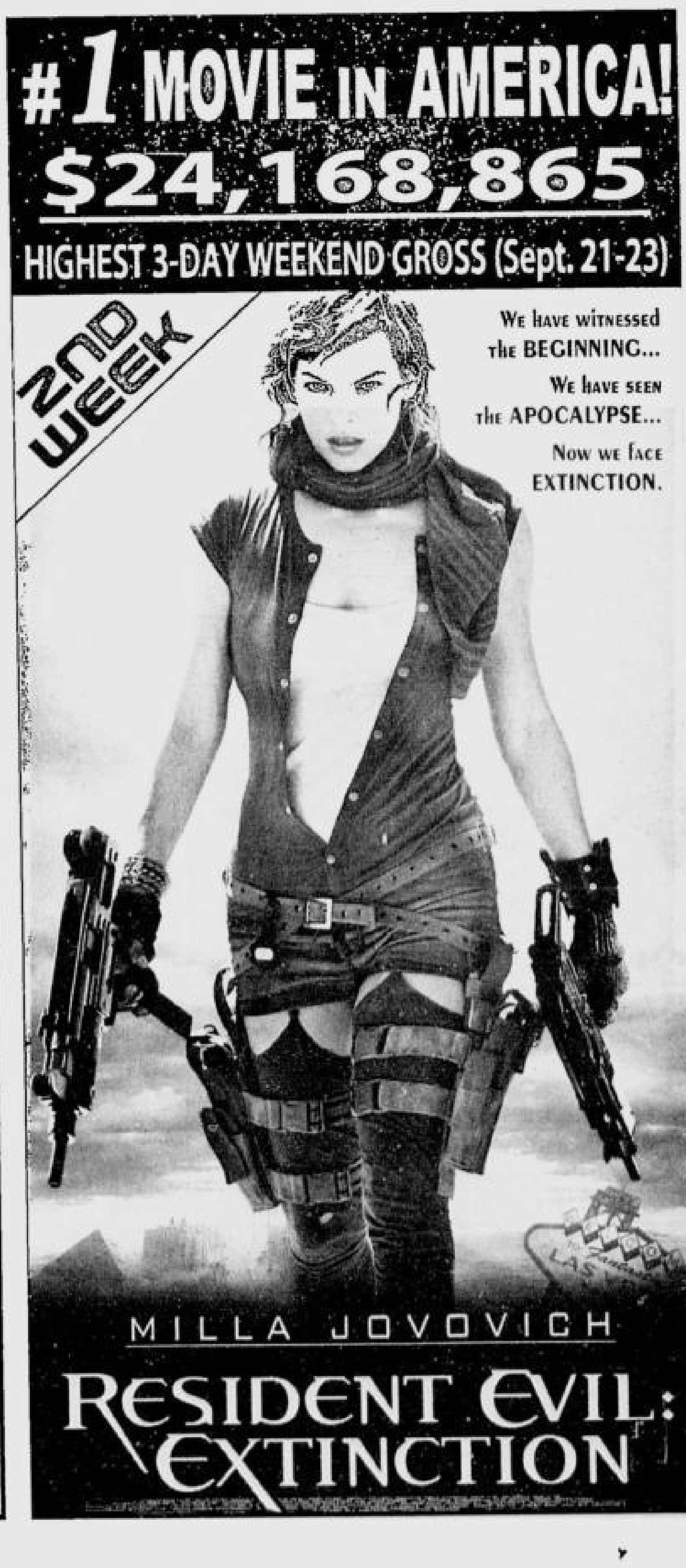
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OPENS OCT.10
KUNG FU FIGHTER

Testy Ms. Kapamilya out to irk ..

From page D1

Balladeer.

"Sabado Boys" is out to redefine fun and the excitement stays long after Saturday night is over.

New GMA artist

Versatile concert performer and recording artist Ayen Munji-Laurel scales new heights as a member of GMA 7's Artist Center. The undisputed "Lounge Concert Queen" won "Outstanding Performer of the Year for Music Video" in the 16th Awit Awards. Aside from that, Ayen mounted the most ambitious production in Philippine Theater history "Rama at Sita."

Ms Laurel is definitely not one to sit on her laurels. She is out to conquer more horizons!

Fashion event

Come in your most bizarre outfit on Oct. 6, Saturday, at Warehouse on 135 Yakal St. Makati for Style Mag's "Fashion Zu—Outrageous Fashion With No Inhibition." Open bar from 9-11:30 p.m. Log on to styleonefashion.multiply.com for details.

See you at the "Zu," party animals!

Model search

The search is on for Brick Road's Mr. & Ms. Sexy-Body 2008. To join, get an entry form at the Ad & Promo Department of Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall till Oct. 20. Call 681-5401 loc. 109.

Only those who submit all of the requirements will be called for the screening on Oct. 26. Elimination rounds start Nov. 2. At stake are over P100,000 worth of prizes.

Follow your (Brick) Road, follow your dreams!

E-mail wateringhole-shangrila@yahoo.com.

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EVENING PG13 1:35,3:55,6:15,8:35	I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY - R13 12:40,3:05,5:30, 7:55,10:20	NO RESERVATIONS G 2:20,4:40,7:00,9:20

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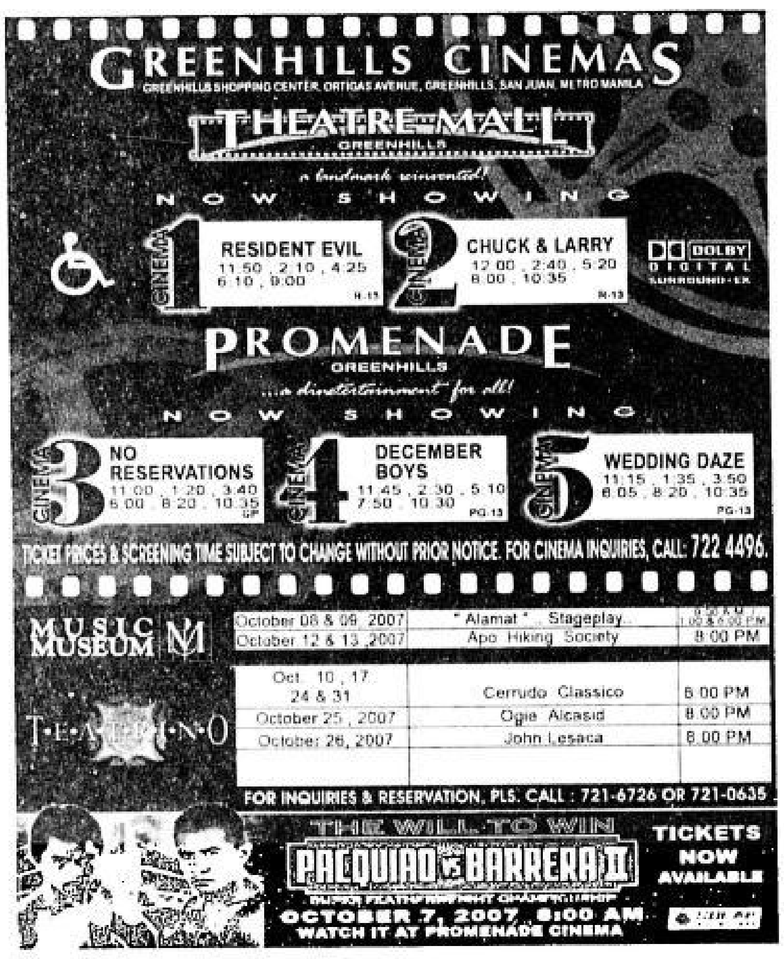

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CINEMA 4 DECEMBER BOYS 11:45, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30 PG-13
CINEMA 5 WEDDING DAZE 11:15, 1:35, 3:50, 6:05, 8:20, 10:35 PG-13

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MUSIC MUSEUM	October 08 & 09, 2007	"Alamat", Stageplay	[illegible] 1:00 & 6:00 PM
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TEATRINO	Oct. 10, 17, 24 & 31	Cerrudo Classico	8:00 PM
	October 25, 2007	Ogie Alcasid	8:00 PM
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More raves...

From page D1

Child" bagged the special jury prize at the 2007 Eurasia International Film Festival in Kazakhstan, according to producer Robbie Tan of Seiko Films.

The festival, now on its fourth year, ran from Sept. 25 to Oct. 1 in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The special jury trophy comes with a cash prize, said Tan.

Mendoza is in Vancouver, Canada, where "Foster Child" is participating in another festival.

"Dante told me that, after watching the film, the jurors congratulated him," Tan told INQUIRER in a phone interview.

"Foster Child" is also participating in the Pusan International Film Festival in Korea this month, and then 30 other festivals after that, Tan said.

'Kubrador'

Jeffrey Jeturian's "Kubrador (The Bet Collector)" has been invited to the 18th edition of Black Movie Festival in Geneva, where it will compete for a distribution deal in Switzerland, said festival print coordinator Emmanuelle Tréhard.

The festival runs from Feb. 1 to 10, according to its website www.blackmovie.ch.

"Our selection committee appreciated the strength and originality of the film," Tréhard said in an e-mail to MLR producer Joji Alonso. "We would truly be honored if Jeffrey Jeturian could [join] us," he added.

AT THE CINEMAS

THX

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
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	4 HARSH TIMES	5 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	6 WEDDING DAZE	7 NO RESERVATIONS
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	3 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	5 NO RESERVATIONS	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	2 DAYWATCH	3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	4 SINKING OF JAPAN
MARKET! MARKET!	1 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU		
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AT THE MALLS

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Glorietta - 752 7272
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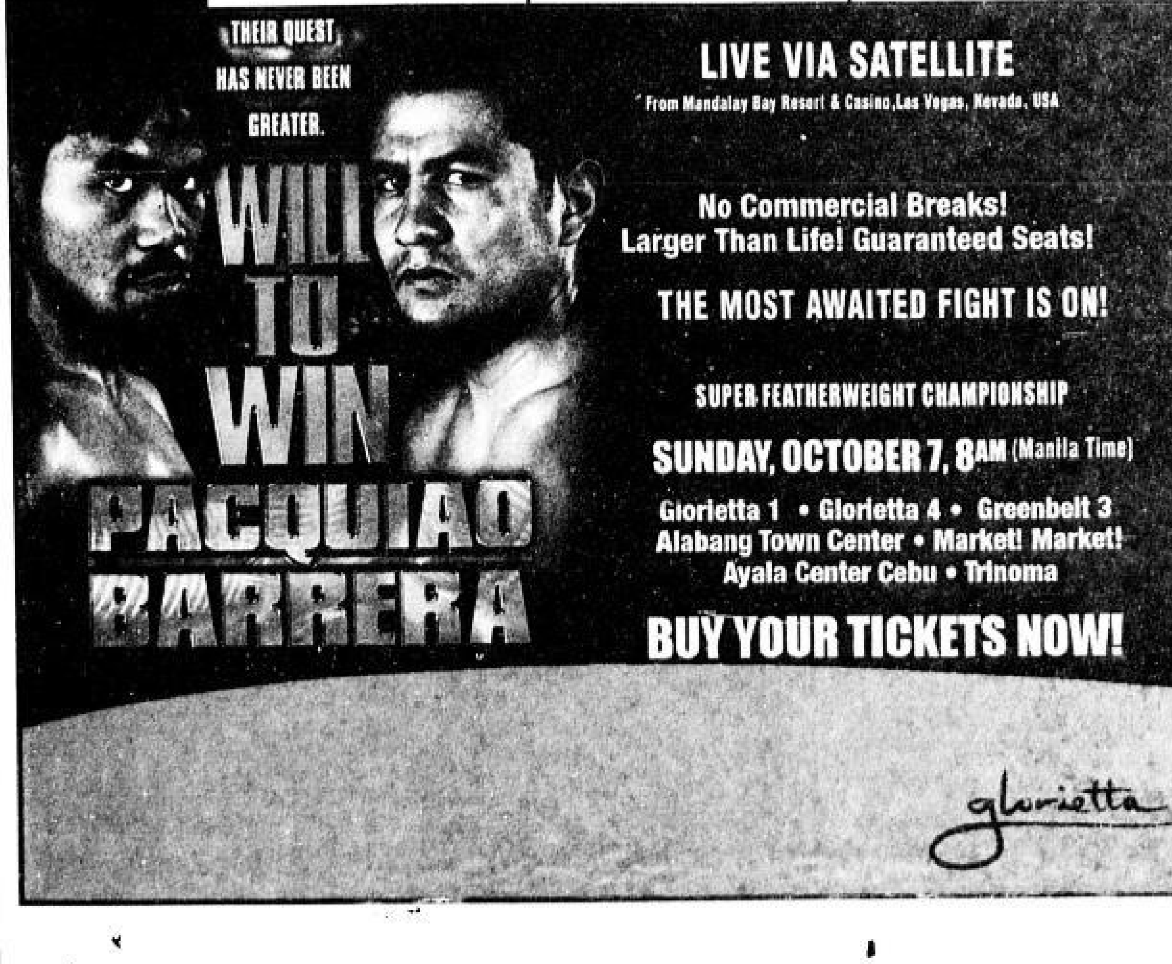
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

Ayala Malls

glorietta	BPI Appliance Madness September 26 to October 16 at Glorietta Activity Center
GREENBELT	Viva Mexico: A Traditional Mexican Costume Exhibit October 8 to 15; Greenbelt 3 Lobby
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Fitness At The Town September 3 to December 14, 2007; Mon. / Wed. / Fri. - 6 PM; Town Plaza
AYALA CENTER CEBU	BPI Automadness Exhibit October 11 to 14; Paseos
MARKET! MARKET!	Stargazing: "Apat Dapat Dapat Apat" Mall Tour October 5; 5 PM; Activity Center
Greenbelt Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST September 15 - October 7, 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com
Ayala MUSEUM	HYBRIDITY: Mark Lewis Higgins September 18 to October 28, 2007; Ground Floor For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma	Rhythm Academy: Nina with the Kilyawan Boys October 6; 7 PM; TriNoma Park



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CHEER FACTOR

ATLANTIS Productions' hit staging of the Tony Award-winning Broadway musical "Avenue Q" (described as a cross between "Sesame Street" and "Rent") will be back Dec. 14-23 at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium in RCBC Plaza, Makati. In the stellar cast of the local production are Rachel Alejandro, Frenchie Dy, Felix Rivera, Joel Trinidad, Rycharde Everley, Teenee Chan and Aiza Seguerra as Gary Oldman. Call 892-7078.

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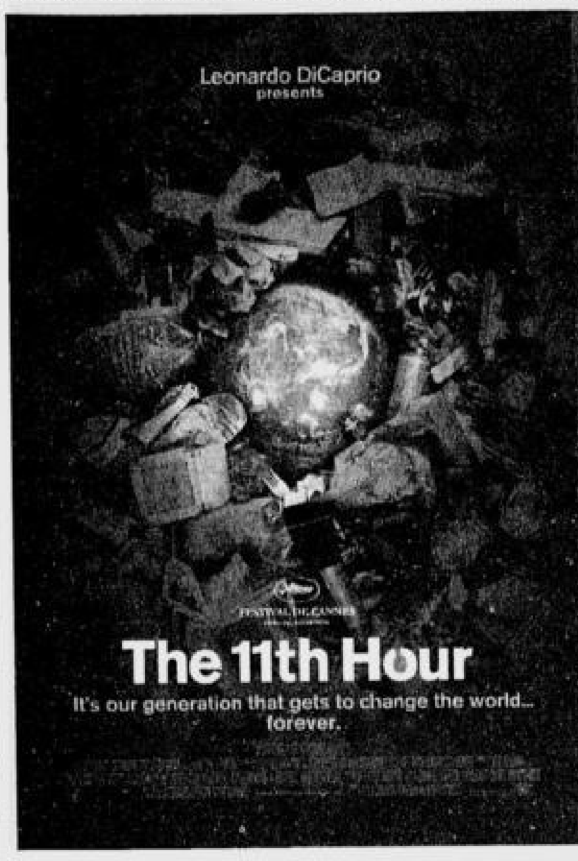
Leonardo DiCaprio presents
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The 11th Hour

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Narrated and produced by Leonardo DiCaprio
Written and directed by Leila Conners Petersen and Nadia Conners

Screening Schedules:
October 10 (Wednesday) at North Edsa
October 17 (Wednesday) at Mall of Asia
October 24 (Wednesday) at Megamall
October 31 (Wednesday) at Manila
November 7 (Wednesday) at Sta. Mesa

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3. UNDERDOG/THE BRAVE ONE
4. ROGUE ASSASSIN
5. DECEMBER BOYS
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6. RESIDENT EVIL
7. ROGUE ASSASSIN
8. DECEMBER BOYS
9. UNDERDOG
10. 1408
11. I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
12. RUSH HOUR 3

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901

1. I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2. DECEMBER BOYS
3. RESIDENT EVIL
4. ROGUE ASSASSIN
5. WEDDING DAZE
6. NO RESERVATIONS
7. I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
8. 1408
9. THE BRAVE ONE
10. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
11. SHOOT EM' UP
12. RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749

1. UNDERDOG
2. NO RESERVATIONS
3. A LOVE STORY
4. ROGUE ASSASSIN
5. THE BRAVE ONE
6. SHOOT EM' UP
7. RESIDENT EVIL
8. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
9. I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
10. I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
11. WEDDING DAZE
12. HOST/1408

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416

1. RESIDENT EVIL
2. NO RESERVATION
3. WEDDING DAZE
4. ROGUE ASSASSIN
5. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6. UNDERDOG
7. I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
8. 1408
9. SHOOT EM' UP
10. I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488

1. RESIDENT EVIL
2. I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
3. ROGUE ASSASSIN
4. WEDDING DAZE
5. NO RESERVATION
6. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888

1. DECEMBER BOYS
2. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3. RESIDENT EVIL
4. ROGUE ASSASSIN
5. WEDDING DAZE
6. NO RESERVATION
7. I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
8. I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
9. SHOOT EM' UP

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055

1. RESIDENT EVIL
2. NO RESERVATION
3. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4. ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240

1. I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2. WEDDING DAZE
3. DECEMBER BOYS
4. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5. NO RESERVATION
6. RESIDENT EVIL
7. ROGUE ASSASSIN
8. DISTURBIA
9. 1408
10. RUSH HOUR 3
11. UNDERDOG
12. SHOOT EM' UP

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04

1. RESIDENT EVIL
2. THE HOST
3. DON'T LOOK BACK
4. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917

1. RESIDENT EVIL
2. NO RESERVATION
3. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4. THE HOST

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975

1. NO RESERVATION
2. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3. RESIDENT EVIL
4. ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868

1. I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2. RESIDENT EVIL
3. RESIDENT EVIL
4. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5. ROGUE ASSASSIN
6. NO RESERVATIONS
7. DAYWATCH
8. WEDDING DAZE

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45

1. ROGUE ASSASSIN
2. I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
3. I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY
4. BRATZ
5. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6. RUSH HOUR 3/OSS 117

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17

1. ROGUE ASSASSIN
2. THE BRAVE ONE
3. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4. THE LAST LEGION

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04

1. BRATZ
2. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3. NANCY DREW
4. I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9837681-85

1. SKINWALKERS
2. BRATZ
3. ROGUE ASSASSIN
4. I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
5. I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY
6. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187

1. BRATZ
2. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3. SHOOT EM' UP
4. DAYWATCH

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80

1. THE BRAVE ONE
2. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3. THE LAST LEGION
4. ZOMBIES

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39

1. THE BRAVE ONE
2. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3. I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
4. I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160

1. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2. RESIDENT EVIL
3. ROGUE ASSASSIN
4. BRATZ

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811

1. SKINWALKERS
2. BLIND DATING
3. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4. ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998

1. RESIDENT EVIL
2. ROGUE ASSASSIN
3. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4. SINKING OF JAPAN
5. I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
6. THE BRAVE ONE

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884

1. THE BRAVE ONE
2. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3. HAIRSPRAY
4. ROGUE ASSASSIN

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422

1. BRATZ
2. **RESERVED**
3. SKINWALKERS
4. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5. NANCY DREW
6. ROGUE ASSASSIN
7. **RESERVED**
8. I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876

1. RESIDENT EVIL
2. SINKING OF JAPAN
3. DAYWATCH
4. THE BRAVE ONE
5. I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY
6. ROGUE ASSASSIN
7. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
8. RESIDENT EVIL

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010

1. THE BRAVE ONE
2. THE LAST LEGION
3. ROGUE ASSASSIN
4. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE-LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING-SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA

Ticket Price THX: P160 · 130; [illegible] 632-9118

1 NO RESERVATION • THX
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 EVENING
4 DEEMBER BOYS
5 WEDDING DAZE
6 ROGUE ASSASIN
7 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY
8 indieSine: TUKSO
9 SHOOT 'EM UP
10 I HAVE FALLEN FOR YOU

Watch LIVE via SATELLITE

Robinsons Movieworld
GALLERIA • ERMITA
METRO EAST

OCTOBER 7 • Sunday
8:00AM

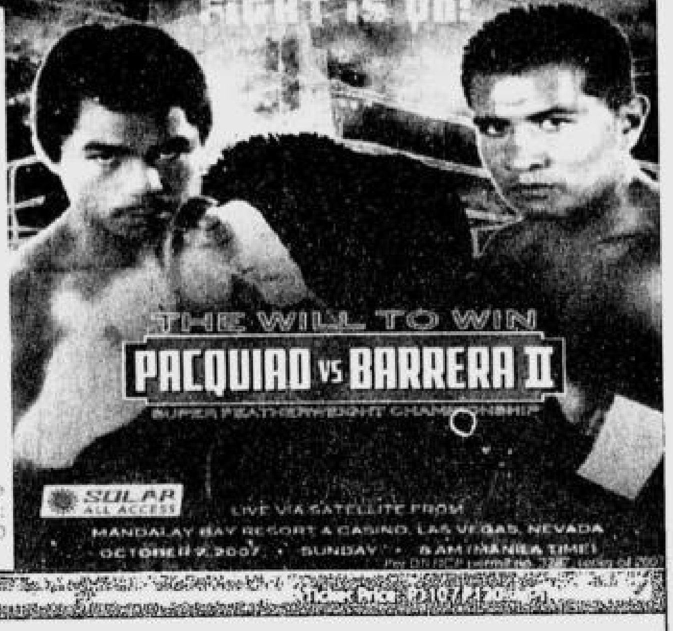
TICKET PRICE:
P600 (Galleria & Ermita)
P500 (Metro East)

FREE hotdog, popcorn and drink for every ticket purchased

TICKETS are available at the ticket booth

For inquiries, pls. call the Marketing Services Dept.: 395-2188 locs. 230 / 240

See Posters and Print ads for more details


THE MOST AWAITED FIGHT IS ON!
THE WILL TO WIN
PACQUIAO vs BARRERA II
SUPER FEATHERWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP
SOLAR ALL ACCESS
LIVE VIA SATELLITE FROM
MANDALAY BAY RESORT & CASINO, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA
OCTOBER 7, 2007 • SUNDAY • 8 AM (MANILA TIME)

ERMITA

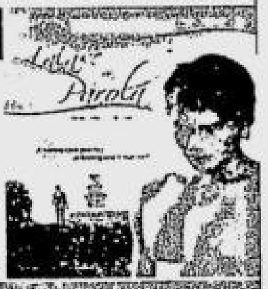
Ticket Price P100 / P120 [illegible]

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 I HAVE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 I HAVE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 WEDDING DAZE
6 NO RESERVATION
7 ANG LALAKE sa PAROLA

exclusive screening

Robinsons Movieworld ERMITA
October 03 to 09

"Ang Lalake sa Parola" offers a haunting yet insightful glimpse into one man's struggle to discover his true self in a world caught between fantasy and reality. In the midst of a conservative rural community, he must choose between being straight or coming out - and ultimately discovers that truth is indeed stranger than fiction. MTRCB Rating: R18



METRO EAST

Ticket Price: P100 / P110 · 682-8193 · 682-8199

1 NO RESERVATION
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 SHOOT 'EM UP
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
5 WEDDING DAZE
6 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
7 THE BRAVE ONE
8 I HAVE FALLEN FOR YOU

NOVALICHES

Ticket Price P90 / P100 · 936-3231 / 936-3229-30

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 I HAVE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 NO RESERVATION
4 SHOOT 'EM UP

PIONEER

Ticket Price P100 / P110 · 687-5378

1 I HAVE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 DECEMBER BOYS
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 WEDDING DAZE

STA. ROSA

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (049) 837-0907

1 I HAVE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 THE HOST
3 SKINWALKERS
4 PLANET TERROR

LIPA

Ticket Price: P.90 (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 I HAVE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 SHOOT 'EM UP
3 NANCY DREW
4 BRATZ

DASMARIÑAS

Ticket Price P80 / P90 (046) 416-4332

1 I HAVE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 THE HOST
4 HAIRSPRAY

IMUS

Ticket Price P90/P100 (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 I HAVE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 BRATZ
4 SHOOT 'EM UP

ANGELES

Ticket Price: P 90 / P95 (045) 892-2348

1 I HAVE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 THE HOST
3 BRATZ
4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

TARLAC

1 I HAVE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 DON'T LOOK BACK
3 SHOOT 'EM UP

STARMILLS

Ticket Price P80 / P90 (045) 875-1927

1 I HAVE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 BRATZ
3 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
5 THE HOST
6 RUSH HOUR 3

BACOLOD

Ticket Price: P70 (034) 441-0459

1 I HAVE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 THE LAST LEGION
4 THE BRAVE ONE
5 STOMP THE YARD
6 DISTURBIA

ILOILO

Ticket Price: P70.50 / P80.50 (033) 336-8070

1 I HAVE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
4 NANCY DREW
5 BRATZ
6 DAGYANG

MMTA
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MOVIE GUIDE
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SHANG CINEPLEX
5th floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
1 DECEMBER BOYS
2 NO RESERVATIONS
3 CHUCK & LARRY
AUSTRALIAN FILM FEST
4 WEDDING DAZE
PREMIERE
EVENING

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3 WEDDING DAZE

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 I KNOW WHO KILL ME

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 HOST
3 BRATZ
4 I KNOW WHO KILL ME

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
2 NO RESERVATIONS
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 CHUCK & LARRY

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 EVENING
2 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3 DECEMBER BOYS
4 WEDDING DAZE

starmall EDSA SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504286, 6433994
1 DON'T LOOK BACK
2 THE INVASION
3 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 I KNOW WHO KILL ME
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4

THEATRES
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 THE BRAVE ONE
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
ROGUE ASSASSIN
RESERVED
RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 SHOOT EM UP
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1
2 PLEASE CALL
3
4

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 CHUCK & LARRY
2 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3 NO RESERVATIONS
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 WEDDING DAZE
6 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
7 DECEMBER BOYS
8 SURF'S UP
9 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
10 ROGUE ASSASSIN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plandel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 THE BRAVE ONE / NANCY DREW
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 LAST LEGION

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 RISE BLOOD HUNTER
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 PLEASE CALL
2

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 5341927
1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3 RUGUE ASSASSIN
4 RESERVED

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 HOST
2 HAMOG SA BUKANG LIWAYWAY
3 MGA BABAE SA ISLA ASUL
4 BRATZ

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 HULING BERHEN
3 IVE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 MAHAROT
5 I KNOW WHO KILL ME

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 RESIDENT EVIL - 3

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 BRATZ
2 NANCY DREW
3 BALAT SIBUYAS
4 SHOOT EM UP

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 SKINWALKERS
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 UNDERDOG
4

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 PLEASE CALL
2

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Stars benefit from acting 'out of the box'

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

DIRECTING BIG STARS CAN BE QUITE A trick. Some of them have become popular for playing mainly one type of "signature" character, so it's difficult to persuade them to go out on a limb and do something new.

Stars are also used to doing things their own way, so they sometimes treat their bidding and showcase them in the best possible way.

Some directors accept this galling situation as "just the way things are," and direct a star in one film after another. This may not be very creative, but it does assure years of comfortable employment...

But for the directors who want to *direct*, and not act as big stars' cinematic "yes" man and *yaya* , they have to convince the luminaries they're directing that their careers will benefit from the new roles they're giving them.

Properly convinced, they are prepared to work harder than usual and take some risks in the name of creativity—and, hopefully, win some awards for their pains.

Not many stars are so ambitious, however. Most of them don't want to rock their profitable beat, hence the predictability of their performances, and their decisions to be directed by mere "yes" men.

They may not end up as acting greats, but as more than one of them has smugly riposted, *"Sa inyo na ang mga* award, *sa akin naman ang takilya."* The cocksure way they say it leaves no doubt about which result they believe is better!

Exceptions to this desultory rule include Nora Aunor in "Bona," Vilma Santos in "Sister Stella L," Cesar Montano in "Panaghoy sa Suba," Hilda Koronel in "Insiang," Rita Gomez in "Pagdating sa Dulo," Sharon Cuneta in "Crying Ladies," and Fernando Poe Jr. in "Aguila." Note that all of these "out of the box" portrayals have been acclaimed, and added greatly to the stars' acting cachet.

Failed attempts

On the *other* hand, some stars also dared to do something different—but failed. For one, Comedy King Dolphy once tried to play it deep and serious in "Cyrano de Bergerac" but his fans refused to accept him in the daringly different role—and he never attempted to reach for acting greatness again.

This is a great pity, because Dolphy and some other big stars have it in them to aspire for greatness—only, their fans won't let them. So much for "loving" fans wanting only the best for their movie idols!

What about today's stars—how many of them are prepared to push their talent to the limit and think out of the box? Alas, not many. There's Angelica Panganiban in "Santa Santita," and Robin Padilla in "La Visa Loca"—and that's about it.

Sad to say, younger stars have become even more cautious and timid than their seniors. Even the acclaimed Piolo Pascual does pretty much the same thing in his TV and movie outings, and Aga Muhlach's romantic comedy hits have trapped him in a comfortable groove that he needs to quickly climb out of, if he wants his hard-won acting reputation to remain intact.

This "commercial" cautiousness helps explain why even the best screen actors came up with compromised performances these days.

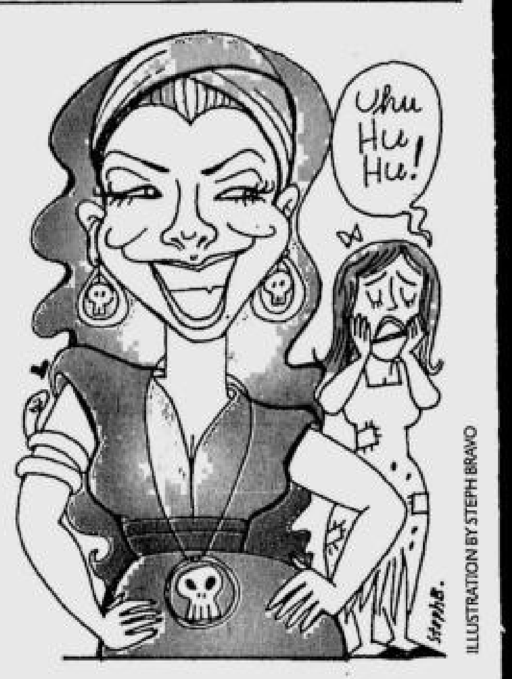


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

In praise of the glorious Pinay

By Art Villasanta

FEEDBACK

IF HOLLYWOOD WANTS THE VILEST OF villains...

Right away they cast a Brit.

Viewers love English cads who inflict murder and pain...

While skewering victims with their sharp wit.

In the Philippines, however, pure villainy seems reserved...

For the females of this nation.

Satan's a Woman (gasp!) whose persona must accord...

With lucrative "Kapuso" and "Kapamilya" notions.

Her name must sound Latin, replete with the vowels "a," "i" and "e"...

Such as, Lavinia, Valentina or Angelica.

She must be evil in the extreme, a super Cruella De Ville...

Who can bellow, "Mwahaha!" with hateful glee.

She must speak perfect English. Yes, yes, she must. The insults are more condescending this way.

"A second rate, trying hard copy cat!" turns to rust if it's just: *"Isa kang laos at puto mayang pusa!"*

Well, I've lost my rhyme but not my reason...

So, here's the point I want to make:

Pinays are passionate goddesses many men worship with zeal...

Loving, forgiving and fashionably smart...

It's heinous to cast her as this hideously unreal "Mega kontrabida" with the charms of a putrid wart.

Have a heart, 2 and 7, don't give us more evil ladies.

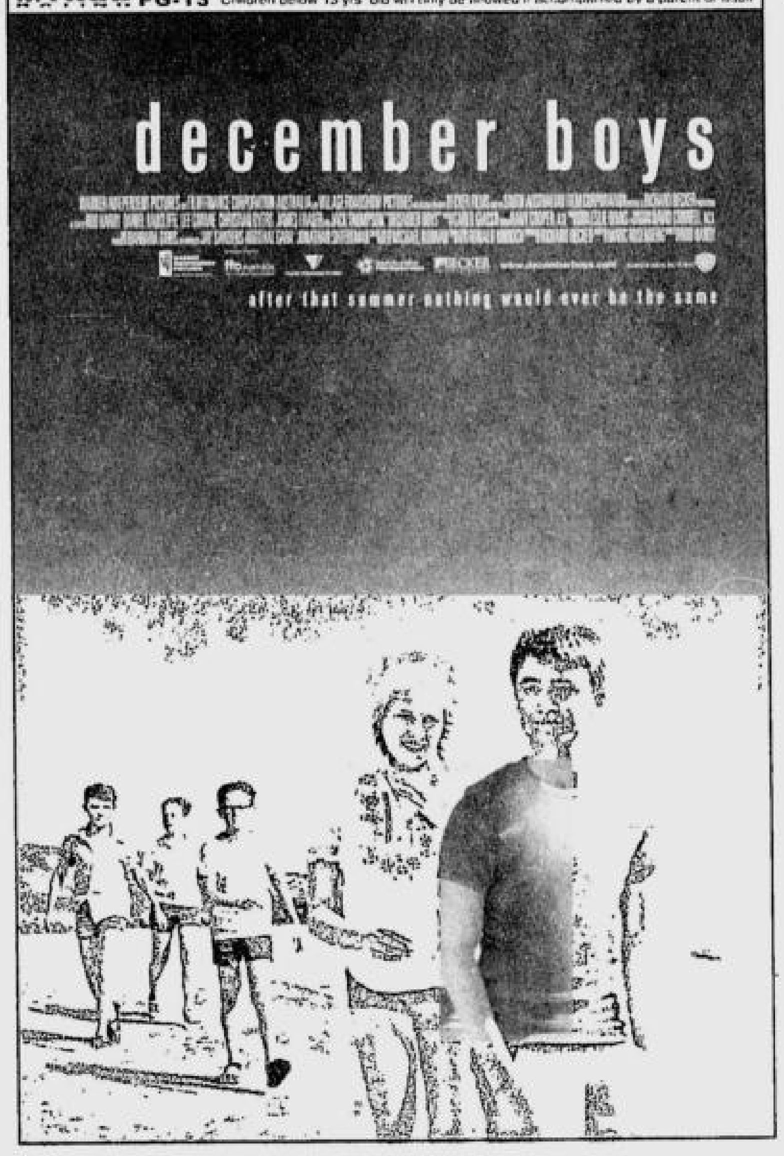
I'd rather romance Katrina and Angelika, instead.

But if you truly, direly need a really vicious baddie . . .

Hire an Alien.

It'll make money for you—until you're dead.

NOW SHOWING!
MTRCB PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult


december boys
after that summer nothing would ever be the same

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 DECEMBER BOYS MTRCB: PG-13 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00
2 NO RESERVATIONS MTRCB: GP 1:15, 3:45, 6:15, 8:50
3 CHUCK & LARRY (R-13) AUSTRALIAN FILM FEST (SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING)
4 WEDDING DAZE (SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING)
PREMIERE THEATRE EVENING (PG-13) 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice
Catch the Cineplex Special
A Blockbuster Gift for all Season
The Shang Cineplex Gift Certificates
Treat your family and friends to a thrilling movie experience only at the shang.
Cinema Treats- for Cinemas 1, 2, 3, and 4
Premiere Rewards- for the Premiere Theatre

5th Australian Film Festival
October 3 - 7, 2007
Shang Cineplex, Cinema 3
SEE AUSTRALIA ON REEL. SEE AUSTRALIA FOR REAL!

October 3 (Wednesday)
Love Serenade 4:00 pm
Harvie Krumpet (Short film) 7:00 pm
Look Both Ways 7:00 pm
Cracker Bag (Short film) 9:00 pm
Floating Life 9:00 pm

October 4 (Thursday)
Australian Rules 4:00 pm
Breathe (Short film) 7:00 pm
Caterpillar Wish 7:00 pm
Cool White (Short film) 9:00 pm
Japanese Story 9:00 pm

October 5 (Friday)
Looking for Alibrandi 4:00 pm
Harvie Krumpet (Short film) 7:00 pm
Jindabyne 7:00 pm
Cracker Bag (Short film) 9:00 pm
Lantana 9:00 pm

October 6 (Saturday)
Looking for Alibrandi 2:00 pm
Australian Rules 4:00 pm
Breathe (Short Film) 7:00 pm
Look Both Ways 7:00 pm
Floating Life 9:00 pm

October 7 (Sunday)
Love Serenade 2:00 pm
Japanese Story 4:00 pm
Cool White (Short film) 7:00 pm
Caterpillar Wish 7:00 pm
Lantana 9:00 pm

ADMISSION FEE Is P50.00
*Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

6th floor, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
EDSA corner Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Call 633-7851, loc. 171/ 170 or 633-2227 for more details
Shangri-La Plaza

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Journey back in time as we take you on a musical ride, from the 60's all the way to the 80's
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The Rolling Stones The Smiths The Shadows The Ventures
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1 EVENING 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:10 PG-13
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3 3:50, 6:15, 8:40, 11:00 R-13
3 DECEMBER BOYS 1:35, 3:50, 6:15, 8:40, 11:00 G
4 WEDDING DAZE

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Gateway ALIMALL FarmersPlaza gatewaymall.com.ph
Gateway CINEPLEX*10 gatewaycineplex10.com
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DECEMBER BOYS 1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30
I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY 1:20 / 4:00 / 6:40 / 9:20
RESIDENT EVIL : EXTINCTION 1:10 / 3:20 / 5:30 / 7:40 / 9:50
WEDDING DAZE 12:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30
EVENING 1:15 / 3:50 / 6:25 / 9:00
Globe PLATINUM CINEMA
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX
I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 12:20 / 2:40 / 5:00 / 7:20 / 9:40
NO RESERVATION 12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30
DECEMBER BOYS 12:55 / 3:35 / 6:15 / 8:55
ALIMALL CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS
RESIDENT EVIL : EXTINCTION 12:00 / 2:10 / 4:20 / 6:30 / 8:40
ROUGE ASSASSIN 11:30 / 1:50 / 4:10 / 6:30 / 8:45
I 'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 12:10 / 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30
ARANETA COLISEUM www.aranetacoliseum.com
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October 4, Thursday
3pm UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST vs DE LA SALLE U - Srs.
BILLY CRAWFORD - IT'S TIME
October 6, Saturday 8pm
For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph